Moro groups want ARMM plebiscite stopped

STORY ON PAGE A2

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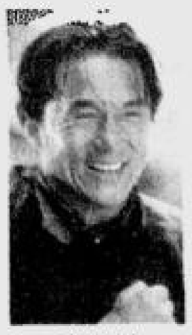
IN *Saturday*SPECIAL



CHAN

- Jackie Chan's new starrer is a big hit
- Movie of the Week: 'Moulin Rouge'
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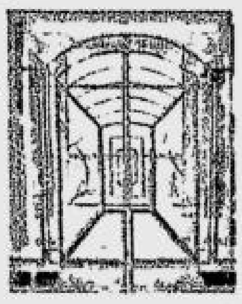
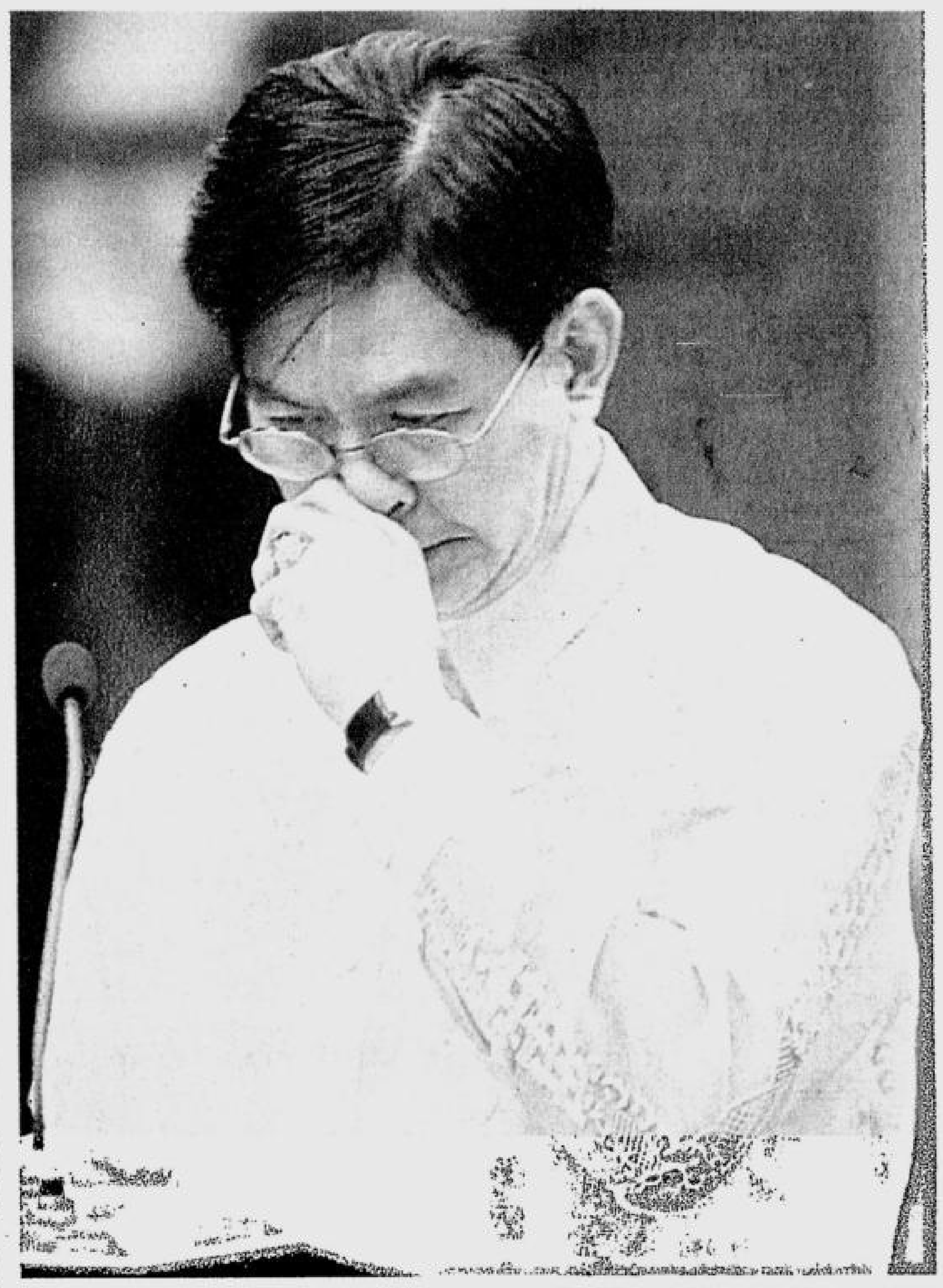


US documents confirm Ping's accounts–NBI



LACSON: "What can you expect from a stooge like Wycoco?"

JESS YUSON

Drug trade behind Ping's millions, US customs told

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

A JOINT military and police intelligence team that spent nearly a month in San Francisco compiling purported evidence against Sen. Panfilo Lacson told US customs agents that the former police official allegedly exported drugs to the US mainland, Guam, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and part of Malaysia.

The team, led by Col. Mario Chan of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), said the Philippines was also used as a transshipment point of illegal drugs.

The drugs, Chan said in a series of interviews with the INQUIRER,

DRUG/ A4

Lacson says Wycoco evidence is 'hogwash'

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE US State Department has confirmed the existence of at least $50 million deposited in bank accounts of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson in California alone, according to Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)—a statement that the embattled senator immediately labeled "hogwash."

The State Department has already furnished the Philippines, through the NBI, with documents showing that Lacson deposited "substantial amounts" in the undisclosed banks, Wycoco told a news conference, occasionally referring to the money as "ill-gotten wealth."

At first Wycoco refused to disclose how much was allegedly involved, but pressed by reporters to be more specific, he said, "definitely, the accounts are worth more than $50 million."

He declined to show reporters copies of the documents, saying they were still being treated as confidential.

Wycoco's revelation corroborated the controversial claims of Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), that Lacson has stashed at least $211 million in bank accounts in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong since 1996.

Corpus has claimed that Lacson, his wife Alice and deposed President Joseph Estrada have a total of anywhere from $728.5 million to $1 billion in 18 joint or individual accounts.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez confirmed in an interview that the US gov-

US/ A4

Peso peg is suicide, Gloria warned

FOLLOWING Malaysia down the path of capital controls would "spell economic suicide" for the Philippines, given its liberalized foreign exchange market, high reliance on foreign investment and low savings rate.

This was the reaction of economists and politicians yesterday to President Macapagal-Arroyo's startling announcement on Thursday that she would not rule out possible capital controls, including a currency peg, to defend the peso from further speculative attacks.

Her later reassurances, however, that such controls were only an option and unlikely to be imposed, brought some calm back into the market.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the possibility of capital controls was remote.

Asian Institute of Management economics professor Romulo Neri said Malaysia pegged its currency, the ringgit, to the dollar in September 1998 during the regional financial crisis because it did not want to tap its international reserves or raise interest rates to defend the currency.

But he saw vastly different economic conditions between the two neighboring countries. He said the use of capital controls was a bad proposition for the Philippines.

"The advantage for Malaysia is that it has a very, very high rate of savings that allowed it to put this money into a lot of projects and to subsidize a lot of leading companies," he said. "But in our case, we don't really have that."

Trying to enforce controls given the Philippines' "porous state and weak system of government" would open up the possibility of corruption, Neri said.

"The problem with capital controls is that it can lead to corruption because sometimes you can delay the approval (of transactions) so people may be forced to bribe the ones who give the approvals."

Former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo cautioned the government against resorting to a fixed exchange rate system.

"That has to be examined very

PESO/ A16

GMA orders probe of AFP-Abu links

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL,
CARLITO PABLO
AND PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

ALBEIT reluctantly, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered an investigation of a Catholic priest's claim that at least five military officers had been conniving with the Abu Sayyaf.

"I would not want to believe it but in the interest of transparency, I have instructed (Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes) to order an inquiry within the defense and the Armed Forces community itself," the President said at her press conference yesterday.

She also told reporters in Davao City that she gave her directive to Reyes on the plane back to the country from Kuala Lumpur, where she was on a three-day state visit.

GMA/ A16

Mayor slain as violence haunts Masbate anew

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

LEGAZPI CITY—The five assassins of Masbate City Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr. waited until he had danced his last dance after midnight yesterday at a fiesta celebration in Barangay Bantigue in Masbate before opening fire.

Espinosa, 45, had at least four gunshot wounds when he died on arrival at the Masbate Comprehensive Hospital in the capital city, which is some 3 kilometers away by boat from Bantigue, according to provincial police director Supt. Victor Deona.

Two others, both residents of Bantigue, were killed in the gunfire. Police identified them as Fidela Marcos, 60, Espinosa's dancing partner, and Henry Regalado, 50, a bystander.

The Espinosa family was initially silent on the killing, but Mark, the youngest brother of the slain mayor, said in a radio interview here that Espinosa was escorting Marcos back to her seat when he was shot.

Deona said initial police investigation indicated that the murder had been well planned.

"The assassins, armed with .45 cal. and 9 mm pistols, hid in the dark outside the concrete and cy-

MAYOR/ A4

ROGER MARGALLO

RELIVING a tragic scene 12 years ago, this file photo shows Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr. (left), grieving over his father, Moises Sr., shortly after the latter's 1989 assassination. Yesterday, Moises Jr. suffered the same fate.

Death came 6 years apart for Espinosas

THREE members of the powerful Espinosa clan had fallen victims to assassins in a little more than a decade. And uncannily, their deaths came six years apart from each other.

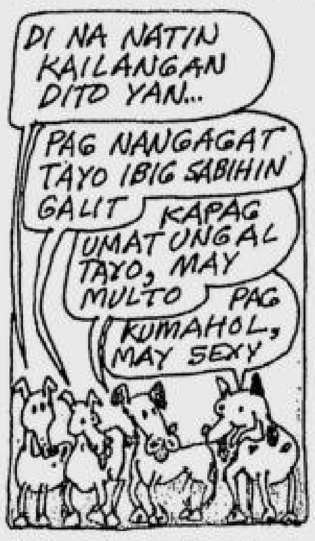
Masbate Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr. who was killed on Thursday was the third in the political clan to be slain in what their relatives said was most likely a politically motivated killing.

His father, Rep. Moises Espinosa Sr., was killed in broad daylight in March 1989 at the Masbate City airport.

An uncle, Rep. Tito Espinosa, was killed in 1995 in an ambush on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City after attending a session at the House of Representatives.

Several people were charged with the murder of Moises Sr., including former Assemblyman Julio "Jolly" Fernandez, who was himself killed by an assassin in Masbate in 1991.

DEATH/ A4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Device helps dogs bark in 2 languages

TOKYO—A Japanese toymaker has the answer for dog-owners puzzled by their pets' bark—the Bowlingual. Takara Co.'s handheld device, which is smaller than a credit card, deciphers growls and yelps into six feelings—frustration, alarm, self-expression, happiness, sadness and desire. Depending on the type of bark, words pop up on the device

DEVICE/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE

MAY PANAWAGAN PA!

Gov't urged to stop plebiscite

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ALCUIN PAPA

MORO groups yesterday called on the national government to cancel the Aug. 14 plebiscite in the Muslim areas in Mindanao, saying the exercise would just be a waste of funds and would not resolve the conflict in Southern Philippines.

"The Commission on Elections said it has a P500-million budget for the ARMM plebiscite but even if you spend all that money you would not end the conflict," said Mujiv Hataman, spokesperson of Anak Mindanao (Amin).

Hataman said the objective of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was to end the centuries-old conflict in the area and attain lasting peace, "but autonomy has not helped solve the problems that are at the root of the Moro insurgency."

"The conflict and the problems are still there, and that means that the present setup (autonomy) does not help in attaining peace," he said. "By expanding the ARMM, you will all the more be expanding discontent."

Yes or no

Voters in the present four-province ARMM and 15 other provinces and 10 cities in Mindanao will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" to two questions.

ARMM voters will be asked if they are for expanding the present four-province setup, while the electorate in the other areas will be asked if they want to join an expanded ARMM.

The Muslim Young Lawyers group has petitioned the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order against the plebiscite.

Four Muslim congressmen led by Sulu Rep. Hussein Amin have also filed a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for deferment of the plebiscite.

Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI, president of Notre Dame University, said only two things could prevent the holding of a plebiscite—for the Comelec to declare it is not prepared for the exercise or a TRO from the Supreme Court.

Mercado has been very vocal about his opposition to the plebiscite, saying it was in violation of the 1996 Tripoli peace agreement.

The petition for a TRO was filed Aug. 3 by lawyer Panambolan Mimbisa, who said the petition was supported by a wide spectrum of Muslim society.

ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari also opposes the plebiscite, complaining that the Moro National Liberation Front and the Organization of Islamic Conference were not consulted on the matter.

Strong opposition

Hataman said the government should wait for the results of its peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the latter's unity agreement with the MNLF before committing to a plebiscite. He noted that the MNLF and MILF were both against the plebiscite.

Hataman said what should be done instead is to hold a referendum in the Muslim areas and ask the Moro people what form of self-determination they want.

He said the results of the plebiscite could lead to more confusion, since cities in ARMM provinces might vote to be excluded from the region.

He cited a scenario where the "yes" vote would win in Basilan but not in its capital, Isabela City.

Hataman also scored the Comelec for launching its information drive on the plebiscite too late, noting that its awareness campaign started only two weeks ago.

Still President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday instructed the ARMM government and other local governments concerned to ensure that next week's plebiscite would be clean, orderly and peaceful.

All systems go

In her weekly news conference, the President reiterated that postponement of the plebiscite was out of her hands because only Congress, the Comelec or the courts could act on it.

"While there is no decision by Congress, Comelec or the courts to postpone the plebiscite, we should continue preparations for the event," Ms Macapagal said.

An MNLF official, meanwhile, denied that Misuari had threatened bloodshed if the Comelec pushed through with the plebiscite.

"I think he was misquoted. All we want is peace and we can assure the public that the MNLF will not engage in any violence that will disrupt the plebiscite," the MNLF official said.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday belittled threats made by Misuari that there might be bloodshed during the Aug. 14 plebiscite.

In a press conference, Mendoza said preparations against the reported threats to peace during the plebiscite are in place. He said the PNP is coordinating with the AFP to deploy additional troops to areas where violence might break out.

"I don't believe Chairman Misuari could mount a big scale offensive in the contested areas. But just the same, we are preparing for it," Mendoza said.

Misuari was scheduled to meet with President Macapagal yesterday but he met instead with Presidential Assistant on Economic Affairs Paul Dominguez in a closed-door conference in Zamboanga City.

Details of the meeting were not released to media as of press time.

Reports and text messages have been circulating in Zamboanga City that the MNLF has deployed its members around Mindanao to sabotage the plebiscite on Aug. 14.

Some 700 MNLF members are reportedly training at the ARMM liaison compound in Barangay Cabatangan in the city under a supposed plan to sabotage the plebiscite.

The reports were denied by the MNLF.

"We do not have any intention of disrupting the plebiscite, although we are opposed to it,"' MNLF Basilan Revolutionary Commander Talib Congo told reporters.

Congo said the fatigue-clad MNLF members who arrived in the city were there to undergo training on the operation of bulldozers as part of their livelihood program.

Comelec optimistic

The Comelec is optimistic that Tuesday's plebiscite in 15 provinces and 10 cities in Southern Philippines will be peaceful and orderly.

In a statement, Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said the poll body is expecting at least 60 to 70 percent of the 4,906,848 registered voters in the region to cast their ballots.

"There is no reason for political tension because no candidate is involved," Benipayo said, adding that traditionally, a plebiscite has a lower turnout than regular elections and there has never been a violence-marred plebiscite in Philippine history.

The plebiscite will be held in the provinces of Basilan, Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Palawan, Saranggani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay, and in the cities of Cotabato, Dapitan, Dipolog, General Santos, Iligan, Kidapawan, Marawi, Pagadian, Puerto Princesa, Digos, Koronadal, Tacurong and Zamboanga. *With Edwin O. Fernandez, Allan A. Nawal, Hernan P. de la Cruz, Alexander M. Young and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

House offers ₱500-M bounty

THE HOUSE leadership will try to insert in the 2002 budget a special "reward fund" for civilian informants and uniformed personnel who have a direct role in the capture of terrorists, coup plotters, "destabilization conspirators," and big time criminal syndicates.

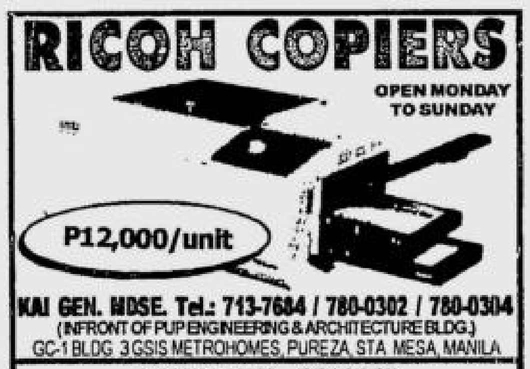
Speaker Jose de Venecia, who proposed the creation of the fund, said a P500-million bounty—"an investment in the country's future"—can be easily accommodated in the proposed P780.8 billion national budget for next year.

He said that the kitty is not only open to civilians but also to members of the Philippine National Police who arrest or kill in an engagement terrorists, kidnappers, and other criminals in the PNP's order of battle.

Members of the Armed Forces are also entitled to the reward if they volunteer information about a planned coup and its masterminds, he said.

De Venecia broached the idea during a courtesy call by PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza early this week. He said that under the reward program P5 million awaits anyone who tips off or captures leaders of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

He added that the proposed P500-million reward fund is merely an enhancement of the existing Abu Sayyaf bounty offered by the government. *Volt Contreras*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GMA economic diplomacy draws flak from militants

BY JEROME ANING AND CYNTHIA BALANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's economic diplomacy in Kuala Lumpur was heavily criticized yesterday by militant groups, which scoffed at her idea of a rejuvenated BIMP-EAGA economic zone and condemned her invitation to Malaysian palm oil interests to invest in Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal had expressed optimism that a revived BIMP-EAGA—or the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area—would bring peace and development to Mindanao.

The Kilusan para sa Demokrasya said "no genuine development is in store for Mindanao under the BIMP-EAGA as it only seeks to develop the tourism industry there."

The "growth area" zone concept seeks to jointly develop contiguous underdeveloped areas of the four Asean member countries included in the BIMP-EAGA.

The zone covers oil-rich Brunei, East Malaysia, the northern islands of Indonesia and Mindanao.

KPD secretary general Millet Morante said the palm oil industry and other foreign commercial projects that BIMP-EAGA would bring would result in the displacement of thousands of Muslim farmers and other Mindanao ethno-cultural groups.

Rampant land conversion, the plunder of natural resources and cheap labor in Mindanao were "surely inevitable" under the BIMP-EAGA, she said.

"Expect farmers and the Muslim people to be caddies and waiters for the flood of tourists in the area," Morante said.

In a press statement, the Philippine Peasant Institute said the move to invite Malaysian palm oil interests to set up plantations here went against current efforts to revitalize the ailing coconut industry and cause the economic ruin of many small coconut farmers.

Ms Macapagal was said to have offered 160,000 hectares of public agricultural land to the Malaysian investors for palm oil development.

The PPI wondered where the President would get such land when "her administration has had difficulty allotting land—she can only offer 100,000 hectares of public land—to small Filipino farmers."

It answered its own question by suggesting that the government might start committing ancestral lands for oil palm development.

It also warned that the establishment of palm oil farms would promote plantation-type agriculture and entail the "reconsolidation" of large private agricultural lands.

The PPI said this would run counter to the government's agrarian reform program and agricultural modernization program, which are supposed to entail the development of small farms.

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Cotabato mayor replaces Misuari as SPCPD head

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin G. Sema as new chairperson of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), a statement from Malacañang said yesterday.

Sema will replace Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In Executive Order No. 29, which she signed on Aug. 3, the President reconstituted the SPCPD and the Consultative Assembly, which were created under EO 371.

The SPCPD is now composed of one chairperson, one vice chairperson and three deputies.

Under the new EO, the SPCPD chairperson will be designated by the President from among the provincial governors and city mayors in the Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD), including the ARMM governor.

Farouk Hussein, chair of the MNLF executive council, said that with the appointment of Sema, "we can now move forward with the peace process in Mindanao."

Sema is a member of the MNLF executive council and secretary general of the MNLF. He was reelected mayor of Cotabato City in May.

In early May, the 15-member MNLF council, headed by Hussein, unseated Misuari as MNLF chair.

It was this council that forged a unity agreement with the rival Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Kuala Lumpur during the President's state visit to Malaysia.

During her press conference in Davao City late Thursday upon her return from Malaysia, the President hinted that she might make some changes in the SPCPD to speed up the development of Mindanao.

She said that Malaysian businessmen have pledged to infuse some $150 million in various labor-intensive agricultural, industrial and service-oriented big-ticket projects in Mindanao.

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PCGG going after General Ver's mistress

CAMCAM

YORAC

By Blanche Rivera

THREE years after the death of top Marcos military aide, Gen. Fabian Ver, the Presidential Commission on Good Government is going after the general's reputed mistress who allegedly helped Ver to stash ill-gotten billions abroad for himself and the Marcoses.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said the PCGG is seeking the help of US and Hong Kong authorities to trace the accounts and other property of Edna Camcam, Ver's longtime companion.

Yorac said Camcam, who was privy to Ver's activities during and after the Marcos regime, is believed to own assets that are also ill-gotten.

The PCGG has confirmed that Camcam owns several real estate properties in various places in the United States, where she had lived with Ver for many years until the general's death in 1998.

"That's right (she has properties)," Yorac said in an earlier interview. "Because, you know, the United States never froze anything, unlike the Swiss banks."

She said the absence of a freeze order in the United States made the recovery task more difficult for the PCGG, the specially created agency which has been trying to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies for the past 15 years.

Yorac said the PCGG was already coordinating with the US justice department and the Hong Kong authorities to track down the accounts and assets in the name of Camcam.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said the PCGG has signed a mutual legal assistance treaty with the US and Hong Kong agencies concerned to boost recovery and litigation efforts.

"They will assist us in efforts requiring legal assistance, such as in criminal matters," Carranza said.

Though PCGG officials did not specify whose assets the agency was surveying abroad, Carranza said the PCGG was on the trail of "everyone" who had close ties with the Marcoses like Camcam.

Camcam allegedly helped to manage the dollar deposits of the Marcoses, which Ver had allegedly taken from the Central Bank reserves and transported abroad and deposited in the Marcoses' accounts.

Yorac said the PCGG was looking at Camcam's accounts in Hong Kong, which may have been transferred to Germany, where Camcam was earlier reported to have met with the younger Marcos daughter, Irene Marcos, and her husband, Gregorio Araneta III.

Camcam was allegedly part of a group that had hatched a money-laundering scheme that would have allowed the Araneta couple to transfer the alleged billions deposited in Irene's in Switzerland to a German bank.

The evasive Camcam, who is frequently out of the country, is a respondent in Civil Case No. 0017 involving the sequestration of Ver's house on Cambridge Street in North Forbes Park, Makati and a unit at the Galleria Suites, PCGG Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said.

GMA to push for passage of anti-money laundering law

By Christine Avendaño and Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would pursue the passage of the proposed anti-money laundering law but probably not with the same vigor that she did the controversial power reform bill.

The President said she believes that this time she can rely on Congress to swiftly act on the bill as the administration has a "clear majority" there.

In Congress, House leaders yesterday vowed to rush the passage of an anti-money laundering law in the face of heavy pressure from foreign banks and a Paris-based international group monitoring the fight against financial crime.

Deliberations on two House bills on money laundering will start next week at the committee on banks and financial intermediaries headed by Manila Rep. Jaime Lopez.

"Slightly less but not much less" was how Ms Macapagal said she would do her share in persuading Congress to act on the bill.

"I think now I can more or less rely on the leaders in Congress to be able to do that work," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she had to doggedly pursue the power reform bill because she was "dealing with a Congress that (she had) inherited" from deposed President Joseph Estrada.

She recalled spending much time on the phone making "personal appeals" to congressmen and senators to act on the bill to reform the power industry.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, author of HB 39 which seeks to prevent, detect, prosecute and punish money laundering, said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was "powerless" to check suspicious bank accounts.

The country lacked a special agency capable of going after suspected money launderers, he said in a statement yesterday.

Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco has filed another bill which calls for, among other things, the creation of a National Anti-Money Laundering Board.

Money laundering is the process of transforming illegally generated money into funds with an apparently legal source.

The Paris-based Financial Action Force has identified the Philippines, along with Russia and Nauru, failing to have made any progress in fighting money laundering in the past year.

Power firm beats Pagcor, SMC in total earnings; solon alarmed

AN INDEPENDENT power energy group has beat cash cow Philippine Amusement Gaming Corp. and industrial giant San Miguel Corp. to the highest rung of the country's top corporate income earners, a development that Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda said should be cause for alarm.

Southern Energy Holdings Philippines Inc., one of the independent power producers (IPP) with which the National Power Corp. entered into power supply contracts in the 1990s, is reported to have earned P8.5 billion in 2000, dislodging Pagcor (P8 billion) and SMC (P6.8 billion) from the top of the list.

SEHPI affiliates Southern Energy Quezon (Hopewell) and Southern Energy Pangasinan (Sual) placed 4th and 5th, with P6.2 billion and P5.2 billion in earnings, respectively.

To Salceda, this was "*prima facie* evidence that the IPP contracts were disproportionately lucrative to favored contractors and, conversely, onerous to the consumers as well as taxpayers."

"As a policymaker, nothing can be more upsetting, if not revolting, to our sense of proportion than to behold side-by-side the Southern Energy group with P22 billion in profits and the Napocor with P13 billion in losses while paying my electric bills with the huge PPA tucked in," Salceda said.

Salceda noted that the considerable success of SEHPI was in sharp contrast to the fate of the Napocor, the state-owned power company, which posted a net loss of P12.836 billion despite being granted hefty power purchase adjustment increases that are paid for by consumers.

"This should arouse public outcry to move beyond a review towards a renegotiation of these lopsided IPP contracts worth P450 billion of which P250 billion has been assumed by the national government under the Electricity Industry Reform Act," Salceda said.

At the height of the power crisis in the 1990s, the Napocor was allowed to enter into supply contracts with independent power producers.

The allegedly onerous take-or-pay IPP contracts were a major sticking point in the passage of the power reform bill, which sought comprehensive reforms in the power industry.

Privatizing the Napocor meant that the government and ultimately the consumers would have to absorb the state firm's losses from these obligations, which amounted to $6.7 billion as of end-May.

To blunt opposition from those who demanded the immediate review of the "onerous" IPP contracts and ensure passage of the bill, President Macapagal-Arroyo created an inter-agency committee to review the IPP contracts.

The President ordered the committee to initiate appropriate action "in cases where the contracts are found to contain provisions that are onerous or grossly disadvantageous to the government."

The committee is to submit reports on the results of the review every six months.

With a report from Rocky Nazareno

Comelec all set to proclaim Ocampo, Beltran with SC nod

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday told the Supreme Court it is ready to proclaim the three nominees of winning party-list group Bayan Muna, led by former National Democratic Front leader Satur Ocampo, as members of the House of Representatives if the high tribunal allows it.

The Comelec made its stand in a 10-page comment it submitted to the high court in answer to a motion filed by Bayan Muna seeking to compel the poll body into proclaiming all winning party-list representatives.

"In as much as Bayan Muna garnered a total percentage of 11.36 percent and cannot possibly be dislodged from its position, the Comelec is ready to proclaim it as one of the winners if this Honorable Court will give its imprimatur thereto," the poll body said.

The comment was prepared by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who opined that the Comelec may proclaim the Bayan Muna nominees with the approval of the SC.

Under the party-list system, Bayan Muna is entitled to three seats in the House. Its three nominees are Ocampo, labor leader Crispin Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, and Lisa Masa, chair of the feminist group Gabriela.

But Marcelo said Bayan Muna cannot demand that all the winning party-list groups be proclaimed because it does not represent all winning parties.

"Considering that the SC directed the Comelec to refrain from proclaiming any winner until after the Comelec itself will have complied and reported its compliance . . . Comelec cannot make a partial proclamation of the winners without the approval of the SC," Marcelo said.

The Comelec thus asked in its comment that it be allowed by the SC to proclaim only the winning representatives of Bayan Muna as an exception to the restraining order issued by the high tribunal on June 26 prohibiting the poll body from proclaiming any winner in the party-list elections.

The latest Comelec party-list canvass report showed that 10 party-list groups led by Bayan Muna have garnered enough votes to qualify for seats in the House. Aside from Bayan Muna, these are the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives, Veterans Federation Party, Abag Promdi, Nationalist People's Coalition, Akbayan, Luzon Farmers Party (Butil), Lakas NUCD-UMDP, Citizen's Battle Against Corruption.

Mar submits to drug test at Makati Med

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas submitted to a drug test yesterday morning, the first Cabinet member to do so in the wake of persistent rumors that some members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family used illegal drugs.

Roxas went directly to the Makati Medical Center from the domestic airport where he had planed in from Davao as a member of Ms Macapagal's official delegation to Malaysia.

Roxas submitted blood and urine samples for laboratory analysis at the MMC.

Before boarding his flight in Davao, Roxas was interviewed on radio about the Malaysian trip and government efforts to check currency speculation.

Toward the end of the interview, Roxas was asked about rumors tagging unnamed Cabinet members as drug users. He was asked if he would be willing to undergo a drug test.

Roxas acquiesced, saying that "as a member of President Macapagal's official fami'y, we want to do our part to dispel any loose talk and, in the spirit of transparency, show our commitment to good governance."

Later, he expressed disappointment "over gutter gossip presented as news reports intended only to cast aspersions on the integrity of innocent public figures."

Suggestions have been made for Macapagal Cabinet members to undergo drug tests after rumors circulated about drug use by certain officials.

Yesterday afternoon, the MMC released the results of Roxas' drug test.

Negative for any evidence or traces of regulated or illegal drugs, read the statement from Dr. Raul Fores, MMC president and medical director. His cholesterol and blood sugar levels were also normal, Fores added.

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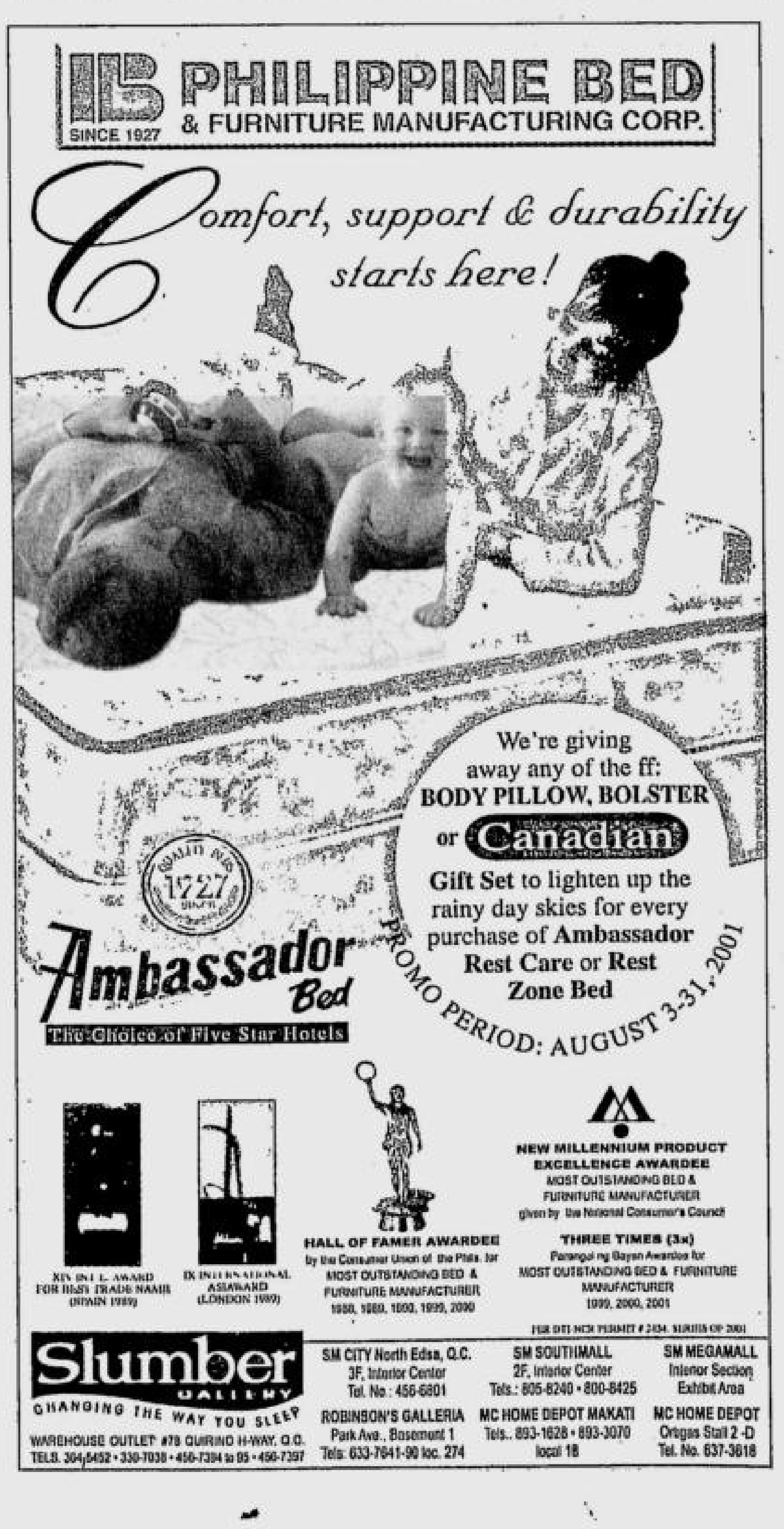

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US documents confirm Ping's accounts-NBI

(From page A1)

ernment recently forwarded documents to the NBI.

"I was told that they (NBI agents) have already received a reply from the US regarding their request for bank documents on Lacson et al.," Perez said.

But he added that he has yet to see the report. "This is normal since the report is still being completed . . . if it's already complete then they will forward it to me," he said.

Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police, reacted to the charges by insulting the NBI head.

"What can you expect from a stooge like Wycoco who has nothing to show as far as experience and skills in investigative work are concerned?" Lacson said in a statement.

According to him, Wycoco's information "is as rubbish (sic) as his reputation as an investigative officer." He described the NBI chief as "all form, no substance."

"Obviously, Malacañang has been quite disappointed with Corpus for his failure to back up his claim with solid evidence," he said. "So, in comes Wycoco to save the day for the bungling Corpus."

'Simpletons'

Lacson said both Corpus and Wycoco would be unable to prove their allegations, since "their biggest obstacle" was "not only the absurdity" of their charges, "but also the fact that they have this reputation for being simpletons."

The senator again challenged them to "gather your evidence and file them in court and I will answer them point by point."

Told that Corpus has prepared waivers for Lacson, Alice, ousted President Estrada and Sen. Loi Estrada to sign, he said he would "seriously consider the offer on one condition."

A text message received from Lacson's cell phone number said: "(Corpus) must be man enough to admit that he or they fabricated the 18 bank accounts that he leaked to the media."

On his side, Lacson has two letters from Citibank regional headquarters in Singapore saying that the bank has conducted a search of some of its records and not found any of the account numbers listed by Corpus as belonging to the Lacson couple and/or Estrada. Corpus has accused Loi Estrada of keeping a separate bank account, but has identified no account number.

Corpus, for his part, has a mission report, corroborated by statements, verbal and written, from Malacañang officials, a US congressional aide, and now the NBI, indicating that Lacson is being seriously investigated for allegedly laundering dirty money.

Lacson has granted special power of attorney to the military intelligence officer to withdraw deposits and examine the records of the alleged bank accounts in Hong Kong.

The Isafp chief, who has said the special power of attorney offered by Lacson is useless for purposes of investigation, showed reporters yesterday a waiver he drafted for Lacson to forfeit his rights under bank secrecy laws.

WYCOCO

He challenged Lacson, his wife Alice, and Estrada to sign the waiver, which gives Corpus the right to look into their past bank transactions.

US asks DOJ for report

For his part, Perez ordered two of his undersecretaries, Mercedita Gutierrez and Manuel A.J. Teehankee, to evaluate the statements and documents that both the Isafp and the NBI have promised to turn over to the justice department.

The DOJ is now preparing a report together with an affidavit of Corpus, among others, to formalize the country's request to the US government for its help in obtaining evidence of Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

"The US asked us to submit affidavits and a report from the DOJ," he said. "We're also preparing a separate report to President Macapagal should she want an update of the matter."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Lacson's alleged money-laundering case is not only a national security matter but also an international one that affects the banking and business sectors.

"So we will just be awaiting (the outcome of) these processes to prove that Lacson has ill-gotten wealth in the United States," Golez said in an ambush interview in Davao City.

During a two-hour meeting held yesterday morning at the DOJ building in Manila, Corpus briefed Perez, Gutierrez and Teehankee on the findings of a joint military and police intelligence team sent to the United States in June to investigate Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

"Basically, he just confirmed what he has been saying in the newspapers. He also said he was willing to face any investigation on the matter," Perez said, adding that Corpus promised to furnish the DOJ with his evidence in due time.

'Impeachable'

Members of the League of Filipino Students staged a demonstration outside the Senate yesterday, calling Lacson a "*berdugo* (executioner)" and "thief," and demanding his resignation.

Opposition senators continued to defend their colleague.

Sen. Blas Ople, in a press briefing, warned that the use of the military intelligence agency by the Macapagal administration to mount a "witchhunt" against leaders of the opposition was unconstitutional, making the President liable for impeachment.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta asked Corpus to also investigate the Philippine Expo scam involving former President Fidel Ramos.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was not about to divulge her own bank records, in response to Lacson's dare for all government officials to do so.

"I am not going to fall into a trap," the President told her weekly news conference. "Am I being investigated? I am not."

She said that someone should file a case against her to compel her to open her bank accounts for scrutiny. "You see, I don't grandstand," she added.

Ms Macapagal reiterated that security officials have the authority to investigate anything they "see fit," in replying to queries of whether she authorized the investigation of Lacson.

"I don't micromanage, I don't authorize individual investigations," she said.

Friends all

Golez, the national security adviser, denied Lacson's claim that he solicited a statement from California Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's office for 'propaganda' purposes.

Rohrabacher aide Al Santoli issued the statement earlier this week to confirm that US anti-money laundering and drug enforcement agencies were investigating Lacson and Estrada.

In interviews and a statement, Golez admitted that Rohrabacher and Santoli "are friends, but I had nothing to do with that statement."

Golez said Rohrabacher was also a "friend" of Lacson, and that the two met up at least twice while Lacson was PNP head. The American congressman met with Lacson and other officials during a visit here in the days of the Estrada administration.

Lacson went to see Rohrabacher in Washington last November at the height of the impeachment trial of Estrada, to wage a "demolition job" against then Vice President Macapagal, Golez said in a statement.

"The Rohrabacher office reported to me that Lacson did a demolition job on GMA by falsely reporting on her alleged questionable political links (i.e. leftists) and even did a stab on Erap by saying that then President Erap was not supporting him enough as PNP chief," the statement said.

Also yesterday, the INQUIRER contacted a spokesperson of the Bank of America in the United States to ask whether the bank had indeed confirmed the existence of an inactive account of Alice Lacson in Van Nuys, California, as reported by a local TV network.

Spokesperson Eloise Hale said that the bank would not have issued such confirmation because the bank's policy is not to divulge any customer information.

She said that the bank was not even aware of Philippine news reports on the alleged bank accounts of Lacson. *With reports from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carlito Pablo, Christine Avendaño and Elena R. Torrijos*

Mayor slain as violence haunts Masbate anew

(From page A1)

clone wire fence that defined the village plaza until about 12:20 a.m., when (the shooting) happened," he said.

"This incident is yet the most serious blow to our effort at maintaining peace and order in the province, but its wider effect will reflect on economic development and investment," he added.

Police investigators are looking into politics as the possible motive for Espinosa's killing.

Masbate has a history of political conflicts leading to violence. Espinosa, who was just recently elected president of the Bicol Region League of City Mayors, was the third member of his powerful family to be killed since 1987. *(See story on Page A1.)*

In Manila, Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza said Deona and Supt. Domingo Mendaza, Masbate City police chief, would be relieved for gross neglect of duty.

"We will relieve them for the meantime," he told reporters. "They will be replaced by police officers from the (PNP Bicol) headquarters in Legazpi City."

Mendoza said the move was meant to pave the way for an investigation and to prevent a whitewash. He said he had learned that no policeman was securing the site of the fiesta celebration.

Over in a minute

Policemen quoted witnesses as saying that Espinosa's six bodyguards and two police escorts were caught by surprise by the shooting and did not fire back because the gunmen quickly hid among the crowd.

"(The gunmen) were gone before everyone else realized that the mayor had been shot," a witness was quoted as saying. "It was over in about a minute."

Witnesses were also quoted as saying that the gunmen were not wearing masks and were "definitely not from Masbate."

Espinosa's remains are lying in state at the family mansion in Barangay Tugbo, Masbate.

He was married to Dr. Lilian Lim, with whom he had a son, Julian Paolo, 6. He had two daughters, Nica and Mita, from a previous marriage.

He was a nephew of Deputy Speaker for Luzon Emilio R. Espinosa Jr.

The other members of his family are his mother Ludivina; younger brothers Mario, a former vice governor, and Mark; sisters Veronica, Ma. Teresa, and Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for corporate affairs and a former president of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER in Manila, Veronica Espinosa said her family was still in a state of shock.

Veronica said the mayor's wife could not yet believe what had happened.

"Lilian was supposed to have been with my brother (Thursday night)," Veronica said. "But he told her to stay home."

Veronica also said the killing of her brother was a tragedy not only for her family but for Masbate City as well.

"We're very sad for the city of Masbate because it has lost a leader with a good vision and plans for it. This is a very tragic event for the family . . . because my father died under the same circumstances," she said, adding:

"We're so sad that my brother shared the same fate. Our mother is very, very hurt because he was the eldest and the namesake of our father."

Espinosa barely warmed his seat as mayor of Masbate, which became a city only in September last year.

In 1998 he first ran for vice mayor but lost to the then incumbent, Florencio T. Fernandez Jr.

Unperturbed and presumably bent on following the footsteps of Moises Sr. who began his political career as town mayor, Espinosa ran for mayor in the May 14 elections—and won by a landslide against Fernandez.

He became president of the Bicol Region League of City Mayors only last July 31.

'Dastardly act'

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) issued a statement condemning Espinosa's killing.

Tagaytay Mayor Francis Tolentino, LCP president, said the killing was "a dastardly act by heartless killers who embrace violence as a tool to perpetrate their crimes against innocent people and leaders like Mayor Espinosa."

Tolentino urged Justice Secretary Hernando Perez in his capacity as chair of the National Anti-Crime Commission to order a speedy investigation, and called on witnesses to pinpoint Espinosa's assassins.

In Tabaco City, Mayor Alex Burce said it was hard for him to believe the news that Espinosa had been killed without a fight.

Burce said that at their last meeting in Legazpi City Friday last week, Espinosa arrived with six armed bodyguards.

At the meeting, Burce said, Espinosa treated him and other mayors, among them Fernando Gonzalez of Ligao City and Sally Lee of Sorsogon City, to lunch as a blowout for his having been named president of the Bicol Region League of City Mayors. *With reports from Alcuin Papa in Manila; Joh Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Drug trade behind Ping's millions, US customs told

(From page A1)

were allegedly processed here, and included high-grade methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" for both local sale and export.

The team presented to the American agents a map of the route allegedly used by Lacson's group in trafficking drugs, Chan said, recounting what took place during the team's mission to San Francisco in June.

The drug trade in the country has been estimated to involve P250 billion a year, said Chan and Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus, citing a report of the PNP's National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Unit.

Yesterday, Corpus said one of the Isafp's thrusts in investigating Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities is to look into his alleged connection to international drug syndicates.

Corpus said Lacson was the alleged contact of a certain Kim Wong, a leader of the Chinese 14-K crime group.

"We should focus primarily on drugs, which is the biggest problem," he said. "If we don't give attention to this problem, we might wake up one day to find that we are living in a narco-state."

"Lacson is in big trouble for violating not only Philippine laws but also US laws, particularly (in relation to) the laundering of money earned from criminal activities," Corpus said in an earlier interview.

"There is a constant exchange of intelligence information between the US and RP teams and from our end, we are helping them build a strong criminal case of money laundering against Lacson," Chan told the INQUIRER in past interviews.

Corpus, who first made public the team's findings that Lacson was allegedly hiding hundreds of millions of dollars in bank accounts abroad, alleged that Lacson was involved in drug trafficking as early as 1992.

Then chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, Lacson moved on to head the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and then the Philippine National Police under the Estrada administration.

'Bulk from drugs'?

"It is not surprising to us that Lacson amassed so much wealth beyond his legal means because he used his power as a public official in engaging in drug trafficking, bank robberies, kidnap-for-ransom and other illegal activities," Corpus told the INQUIRER.

"But the bulk of Lacson's deposits came from illegal drugs," he claimed.

Similar information was also relayed to the US customs agents by the team led by Chan and his counterpart in the PNP, Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza Jr., Chan said.

Corpus said he was preparing a strong case against Lacson using the revelations made by former PAOCTF agents-turned whistle blowers Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, and Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador. Both are under the protective custody of Isafp.

Isafp insiders said that Ong, a former interpreter for the Lacson-led PAOCTF, is due to arrive from Hong Kong with witnesses to a kidnap-for-ransom case allegedly involving Lacson's group.

Ong and Mawanay, in their respective affidavits, copies of which the INQUIRER obtained, said Lacson and his men were allegedly engaged in the "recycling" of shabu sold locally.

Ong was one of the six members of the team that went to the United States, to repeat her allegations to US agents concerned about money laundering and drug trafficking.

The Filipino team also furnished the Americans with copies of Ong's affidavits detailing Lacson's alleged illegal drug operations, Chan said.

In her sworn statement, Ong said Lacson and his men were involved in the kidnap-for-ransom and later the murders of Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zhen Quiao, Lui Yao Wu, Sin Ho, Wong Kam Chong and Hiu Ming.

Ong said the five victims were allegedly all drug traffickers belonging to the Hong Kong triad and were operating in the Philippines.

Oplan Cyclops

She alleged that they were targets of Lacson and his men's "Oplan Cyclops," the name for alleged surveillance, wiretapping and kidnapping operations. Ong supposedly acted as a translator of recorded phone conversations detailing the Hong Kong triad operations.

In February 1999, Ong claimed, Oplan Cyclops was put into operation and targeted Wong Kam Chong, who was nabbed with 200 kilos of shabu by Lacson's men in Mindoro waters.

The street market value of shabu is pegged at around P2 million a kilo.

Ong, who worked as narcotics undercover agent from 1993 until her exposé in Nov. 2000, claimed that apart from the 200 kilos, Lacson and his men made P20 million in exchange for releasing Wong.

For his part, Mawanay has said he was personally ordered by Lacson to make deliveries of shabu to various contacts.

Mawanay has claimed that Lacson sourced the drugs from drug bust and "buy-bust" operations.

He has also claimed being involved in the alleged pick-up of ransom payments for Lacson's group. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Death came 6 years apart for Espinosas

(From page A1)

The Espinosas and the Fernandezes have a long-standing political feud.

A Makati regional trial court is hearing the Moises Sr. murder case. The other accused, including former Masbate Mayor Susana Lim, her father Vicente Lim Sr. and former Masbate vice mayor Florencio Fernandez Jr. (a younger brother of Jolly) are out on bail.

Incidentally, Florencio Jr. ran for Masbate mayor against Moises Jr. in the May election.

Another politician, former Masbate Rep. Antonio Kho, is also facing charges for Moises Sr.'s murder. He was also among those charged for the killing of Tito Espinosa.

Kho is out on bail. The case is being heard by a Quezon City regional trial court.

The Espinosa clan has been in Masbate politics since the province's creation in the 1920s.

Moises Jr.'s grandfather, the clan's patriarch Emilio Espinosa Sr., was congressman from 1934 to 1935 and from 1941 to 1953.

Moises Jr.'s uncle, Masbate Rep. Emilio Espinosa Jr., is on his fifth term as congressman. Emilio is the current deputy House Speaker for Luzon. He also served as assemblyman and governor of the province.

Masbate politics has always been bloody and the Commission on Elections had placed the province under its control during the May elections.

Supt. Antonio Nanaz, former Masbate police provincial director, had previously said that most murder cases in the province were caused by personal conflicts.

With reports from Maricar Tolosa and Ray Leyesa, PDI Research; Michael Ubac in Manila, Roly Embile and Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Device helps dogs bark in 2 languages

(From page A1)

display, such as "I can't stand it," or "How boring."

Similar to computerized voice-recognition for the human voice, the Bowlingual matches barks with digital patterns of various barks preprogrammed into the device to translate pooch feelings into pronouncements like: "I'm arf-ully lonely. Please play with me more."

"It's offering a way of communicating with a living thing, an animal that's part of our everyday lives," Takara spokesperson Yoko Watanabe said Wednesday.

Bowlingual comes with a finger-size microphone that attaches to the dog's collar. The microphone and device are linked by an infrared beam. The 12,800 yen ($104) Bowlingual will go on sale in Japan in February and may be later exported, Takara said.

Samples of dogs barking in various emotional states as judged by animal behavior scientists and pet owners were collected for the program, said Jumpei Takahashi of Index Corp., which produced the software for Bowlingual.

But Bowlingual works only for dogs.

"It doesn't work on humans. If you shout a profanity in rage, it might tell you you're happy," he said.

Delving into the psyche of man's best friend, the toy produces a diary summing up a dog's day: "So many fun things today. What an ultra-happy day."

The company hopes to sell 200,000 Bowlingual toys in Japan next year. The machine is part of Takara's Dolittle Project for developing toys to talk with animals.

For those wishing to keep in touch with their animals' whims away from home, Takara is planning a service to read Bowlingual on mobile phones. *AP*

HOME FOR BABY

Former President Corazon Aquino greets a lucky owner of a home built by the Habitat for Humanity in Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal. Behind her is Habitat official Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

DENNIS SABANGAN

PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez , PDI Chair Marixi R. Prieto and former GMA 7 chair and CEO Menardo Jimenez apply anti-termite chemical on a piece of lumber. The three were among hundreds of volunteers who lent their services to a project designed to focus global attention on the need for decent housing for the poor.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Labor unions unite to push for ₱125 pay hike

By Andrea T. Echavez
and Philip C. Tubeza

MORE than a hundred labor unions and federations, Church-based and youth groups yesterday formed a solidarity movement to push for a P125 legislated wage increase.

The new group, Wage Increase Solidarity (Wins), plans a series of protest actions to compel the government to grant the wage hike demand.

"The grossly low wages workers receive in return for their back-breaking labor violate all statutes of social justice," said Wins spokesperson Manuel Sarmiento.

Sarmiento said that the current P250 minimum wage in the National Capital Region is barely half the P509 daily cost of living for a family of six.

"The P125 increase is needed to close the gap even on the basis of a government claim that there are an average 1.5 wage earners in a family. This would not be enough for so many families with only one working member," he said.

In the House, where a labor wage bill proposed by Albay Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro has been criticized by the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, the leader of a labor group urged the bill's critics to "read it first."

Partido ng Masa chair Renato Magtubo said Lagman-Luistro's "living wage measure" would give more benefits to workers than an across-the-board P125 wage hike.

It will increase the daily take-home pay to P500 by combining a wage increase with other means such as price discounts, tax exemptions and social welfare contributions, he said.

Magtubo said that KMU chair Crispin Beltran, who criticized the bill as favoring the employers more than the average wage earner, was "shooting from the hip."

Lagman-Luistro's HB 1377 guarantees that wages would be commensurate with the cost of living through a nominal wage increase, tax cuts, price discounts and government subsidies.

Magtubo said that personality and ideological differences between the Beltran and Lagman-Luistro labor groups might be behind the former's opposition to the bill.

Lagman-Luistro is the niece of slain labor leader Felimon "Popoy" Lagman of the Bukluran Manggagawang Pilipino, which Lagman founded after he broke away from the KMU in the 1990s.

Gloria signs into law measure vs bio-piracy

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has signed into law a measure that cracks down on bio-piracy and provides for the protection and conservation of the country's wildlife, endangered species and their habitats.

"The law solidifies our campaign to conserve and protect the country's biological diversity," said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, one of the authors of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, when he was a congressman.

"This sends a strong signal to our people and to the world that the Macapagal administration is vigorously implementing programs to protect the country's wildlife," Alvarez said.

The new law, according to Alvarez, gives the government a statutory backbone against the illegal and excessive exploitation of our wildlife resources and gives teeth to the campaign against bio-piracy.

"The act seeks to enhance the general biological diversity of the Philippines, regulating in particular the collection and trade of wildlife and allowing only bio-prospecting," he said.

Bio-prospecting is defined as the collection and utilization of biological and genetic resources for purposes of research and knowledge.

The new law mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to make an inventory of all wildlife species and subspecies in the country and identify those threatened with extinction.

The DENR will have jurisdiction over all terrestrial plants and animal species, all turtles and tortoises and wetland species, including crocodiles, water birds, amphibians and *dugong*.

Under the law, the DA will handle the protection of all declared critical aquatic habitats and resources. It will also take care of all fishes, aquatic plants, invertebrates and marine mammals except the *dugong*.

The law, however, provides a special jurisdiction in the case of bio-rich Palawan where the authorized implementing agency will be the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.

Alvarez said wildlife enforcement officers would be deputized by the DENR, while a Wildlife Management Fund, a National Wildlife Research Center and a Wildlife Rescue Center will be established as called for in the new law.

In addition, Alvarez has ordered the creation of a Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit in all air and seaports of the country to guard against bio-piracy.

"We will intercept profiteers who are engaged in the excessive or illegal trading of our wildlife wealth, sneaking out of the country the treasures of our diverse natural resources," Alvarez said.

Violators of RA 9147 face a maximum prison term of 12 days and a fine of up to P1 million.

Gov't to allow farmers to import rice

LOCAL farmers will be allowed to import rice directly next year as part of the government's aim to open imports to all as long as the necessary taxes were paid.

National Food Authority chief Anthony Abad told a forum that his agency was drafting guidelines that would allow the private sector to handle a bigger volume of rice imports as early as the first quarter of next year.

The NFA, a state trading firm, can directly import rice to meet the annual shortfall in local production. This year, the NFA issued permits to local private firms to import a limited volume of 20,000 tons.

"We are studying various options that would minimize the participation of the NFA and maximize the participation of farmers and the private sector in the importation," Abad said.

Under the plan, private companies and farmers' cooperatives would be allowed to import rice, which they could then sell in local markets.

"We are also studying the possibility of letting the NFA import a buffer stock good only for 30 days' requirement of the country," he said.

The NFA has been importing rice to cover up to 90 days' requirement each year to ensure that the country has enough stocks in the third quarter, the lean season in local rice production.

The Philippines consumes an average of 24,400 tons of rice daily. It does not need to import rice the rest of the year as the country harvests the bulk of its rice in the fourth quarter.

Production this year is forecast to be 12.7 million tons of unmilled rice as against the 12.4 million tons in 2000.

The NFA has so far contracted to buy around 650,000 tons of rice from Vietnam and Thailand for its buffer stock in the third quarter this year.

Thailand wants to sell the Philippines an additional 100,000 metric tons of rice, predicting the country will face a shortfall this year, an official at the Thai Department of Foreign Trade said Thursday

In March, Thailand sold 150,000 tons of 25 percent broken rice to the Philippines under a government-to-government deal for $145.35 a ton, including freight charges. The rice was shipped between March and May.

A recent typhoon and a volcano eruption have damaged crops in the Philippines, prompting the need to import more rice than earlier planned, a Bangkok exporter said. *Reuters, AP*

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

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OPINION

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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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EDITORIALS

Clear warning

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has announced that the Philippine government would not rule out the imposition of currency controls to defend the peso from speculative attacks. She issued the statement at the end of her visit to Malaysia, a country that successfully defended its currency, the ringgit, through temporary capital controls at the height of speculative attacks on Asian currencies, including the peso, by predatory portfolio fund managers.

There was more than symbolism in this message that the government is prepared to use more unconventional monetary weapons to stop the slide of the peso exchange rate. The announcement came hard on the heels of an unprecedented Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas decision imposing fines on nine big banks, three of which were foreign, found speculating against the peso from June to July, when the exchange rate fell to as low as P54 to the US dollar. This came parallel to the Bangko Sentral's decision to implement its earlier plan to raise banks' reserve requirement to shield the peso from speculative attacks as well as to halt inflation.

Whether or not the Macapagal announcement was coordinated with the Bangko Sentral (reports say they acted independently of each other), the government has sent out a double-barreled message that it would use its weight more forcefully to defend the peso and not allow speculators to make the currency a hapless victim.

The market got the message that the government meant business this time. The currency market was stunned, if not scared, at the demonstration of political will to intervene in currency transactions. The peso over the past two days strengthened one percentage point against the dollar.

Whether or not capital controls will work in the Philippines to provide a respite to currency depreciation, allowing the economy to catch its breath in the climb to economic growth, is arguable. Neither is there an assurance that what worked in Malaysia, which dug in to defend its currency in defiance of the orthodox monetary policies in place in the region during the 1997 financial crisis, will produce the same results in the Philippines. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's monetary heresy was a temporary measure and has since been relaxed, but only after it put Malaysia's economic footing on firmer ground for staging a recovery.

The warning issued by President Macapagal is that if the life of the economy is threatened, thereby also fuelling political instability, the government is prepared to use all possible weapons and monetary instruments to curb the appetites of free-wheeling market forces preying on weak currencies and sluggish economies.

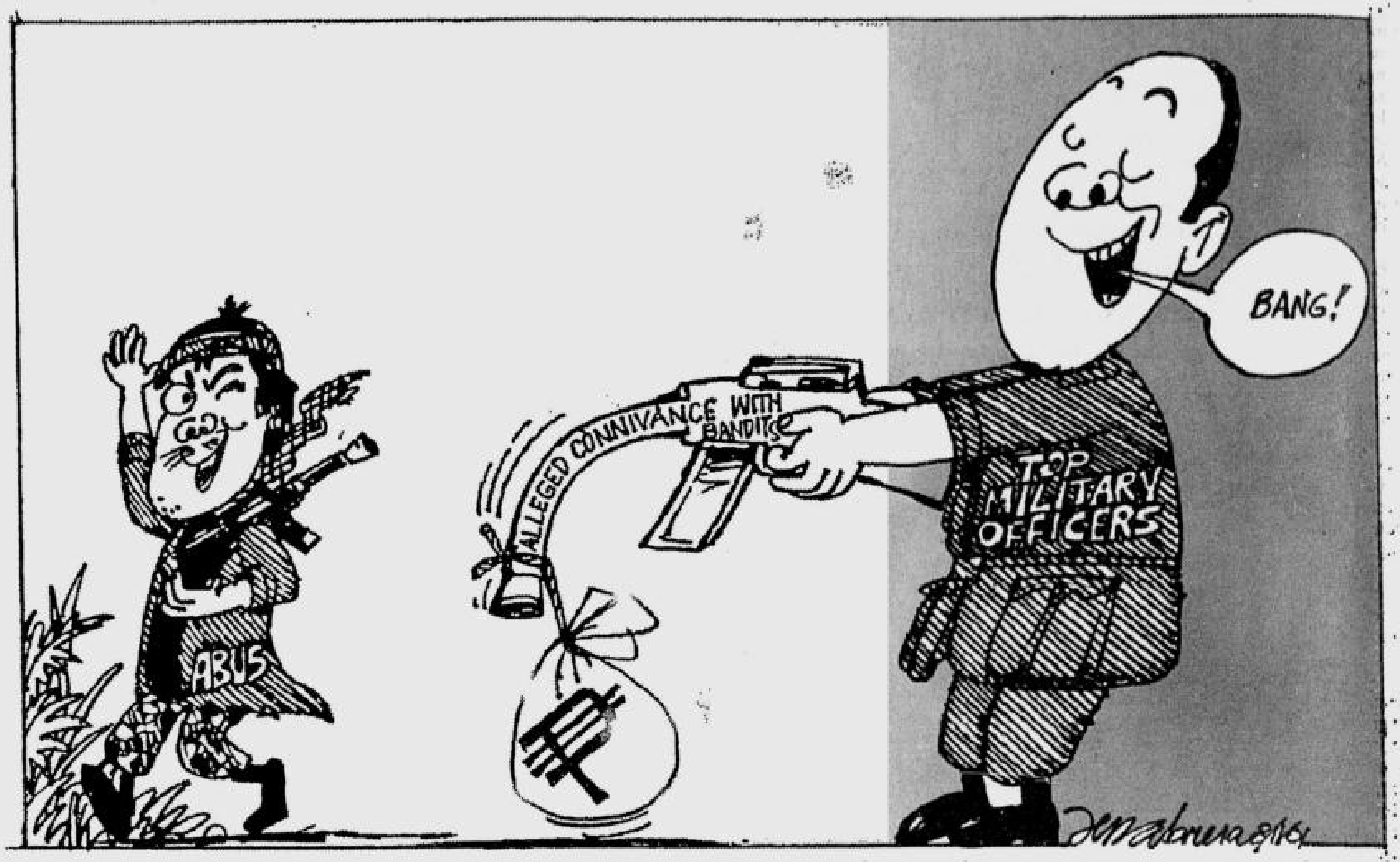
The Mahathir experiment, which has strong nationalist overtones, has proved that even small states are not entirely helpless against the onslaught of market forces. While this might be an era when the fad calls for integration into a globalized trading system, it has also been shown that globalization, including that of currencies strapped to the US dollar or other strong currencies, has plenty of shortcomings. It has also demonstrated that there are still instruments left in the hands of the economies of the developing world to chart relatively autonomous economic and monetary policies not generally favored by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or the Asian Development Bank.

Even in the World Bank, a number of senior officials have studied the Malaysian model and have found out that, in the context of certain circumstances, it has something to recommend to combat the currency crisis. If this is what President Macapagal learned in Malaysia, that quick lesson is more than enough to justify her first state visit.

Strong symbolism

TO BE sure, the visit has produced other results, few of which involve the usual claims of bringing in the goodies, like new investment promises, etc. The signing of the ceasefire agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is a good enough starting point for laying the groundwork for further peace talks.

There was also strong symbolism in returning to Manila via Mindanao, the region that received a heavy accent from the visit in terms of reviving the moribund project of rebuilding the East Asia Growth Area with Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. The accent is on the southern frontier, and its development is tied to having peace in Mindanao.



Happy birthday!

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TODAY is especially significant to me because it is the 70th birth anniversary of my wife Sally and the 12th of my grandson Claudio. It is a happy coincidence that they were born on the same date because they are both very dear to me.

By rights, Sally and I should have been with our daughter-in-law Melanie when she was in labor, but the rest of the children and I had to celebrate their mother's birthday at a dinner in a restaurant. It was there that my son Gani reached us by telephone to announce that he was now the father of an 8-pound boy. That was Claudio.

I met Sally when she was 15 and married her before she turned 20. That was 49 years ago. She has since then given me five sons and, after a long wait, a daughter at last. Her brothers should be grateful to her because it was because of her mother's longing for a baby girl that they were born. If Candy hadn't come when she did, Sally would have kept on trying and we might now have a dozen boys with an exhausted father.

Sally was the typical mother except that she was more beautiful then, as now, than most mothers. Looking back, I realize how heroically she took care of her children—all five rowdy boys in a row—and later a pretty baby to be handled with special tenderness. Their Mommy did not leave them to a *yaya* but personally attended to their every need, including taking them to the barbershop. But it was not a thankless job.

Sally's care for them is what the children, now all adults, best appreciate about their mother. When they were young, she fed them, bathed them, dressed them, enrolled them in school, helped them with their homework, brought them hot lunches, bought their books and school supplies, took them to church and scolded them, sometimes with a broom. Our neighbors marveled that she could do all these, and the children for their part thought it was great fun.

As the siblings grew older, Sally became their intercessor with me as the final arbiter. If they had problems, it was she who told me about it and suggested solutions I often accepted. If I laid down a rule that could not be broken, it was she who urged me to break it, which I often did. She was also good at covering-up. It was many years later that I learned she had also kept from me some of the boys' juvenile misdemeanors, now remembered with guilty glee. It is she, not I, who is responsible for their character flaws.

When they got married, she assumed another role, that of mother-in-law. She became not the wicked tyrant in the tiresome TV melodramas but a surrogate parent to whom my sons' wives could unburden their tales of woe about their spouses. Ever tactful, she consoles the girls and berates the boys. She also gives cooking tips and medical advice as well as birthday reminders. As the communications center of the family, she informs every member of common happenings, especially parties.

But for all her impressive labors of love, what I am most thankful for is the way she has been taking care of *me* all these years. One of my daughters-in-law said it all when she once asked: "What will happen to Dad when Mommy is gone?" What indeed? To Sally, I'm the baby of the family, the one who needs the most personal fuss. I'm the one to whom she has devoted most of her time and attention to make me as uncomplaining and comfortable as possible. (And not to worry, I'll go first.)

Up to now, I swear I do not know what medicines I'm taking; she just sees to it that I take them obediently and regularly. She's the most optimistic person in the world and never fails to lift my spirits when I'm feeling blue. She doesn't disturb me when I'm working, clips all my columns and neatly keeps them in yearly folders. She's my secretary, answers and makes all telephone calls, and keeps track of my appointments. She always scrutinizes the bill when we eat out. She's also like a Girl Scout and can easily reach any address I can't, for I'm lost even in a building. Sally is my most loyal fan and says (not without reason) that I'm the best husband in the world.

As for Claudio, it is curious that he and his Grandma are so different although they were both born on Aug. 11. This boy is a poet. When only 4, he surprised me one morning by observing that "the sun is smiling" and later in the afternoon that "the clouds are burning." He likes to read. I offered to buy him all the Harry Potter books, only to find he had read them all. But for all his literary bent, he is now interested in science and knows more about computers than I do. And believe it or not, he can self-levitate. He's also a hearty eater and can easily demolish three hefty hamburgers in one sitting.

The reason Claudio is especially close to me is that when he was 3 or 4 years old, we used to read his children's books together. He insisted on this and plaintively reasoned, "I want to learn!" He still does but, over the years, not any more from me. He's no longer interested in Peter Pan but in the information technology, which is unexplored territory to me. But I still cherish those younger days when this doting grandfather guided him, as a wide-eyed tot, into the magic realm of storyland.

My grandson is on the principal's list and making good grades. At age 12, he is approaching puberty and teenage discoveries. A new life is opening for him, and I am eager to see him grow up, with me as emotional adviser. He's a handsome fellow with freckled face and black thick hair he hasn't learned to comb—yet. Meantime, he likes to go fishing with his brother Packy and has importuned his Dad to buy them fishing equipment that they'll use at Caliraya.

Today my old Supreme Court staff is giving Sally an *asalto*. It is supposed to be a surprise but the truth is that she has been looking forward to it for weeks. Claudio has different plans for his birthday. He's hoping that since it's Saturday and his Dad doesn't have to go to court or his office, he'll have time to take him and Packy (and their Mom) to go fishing.

On this special day, I offer sincere hopes and prayers that my wife will remain as contented as she has always been as the core and vortex of our family. I wish for Claudio the biggest catch today—of fish, I mean—until he's old enough, maybe 20 years from now, to marry a girl like his Grandma.

The BIR's sins of omission and commission

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF there is one aspect of the Philippine tax system over which there would be universal agreement, it is that tax administration in this country sucks. And there's no two ways either about the fact that it went from bad to worse during the Estrada administration, with both tax effort (the ratio of tax revenues to GDP) and tax elasticity (the percentage increase in revenues over the percentage increase in GDP) falling dramatically.

If those terms don't grab one's imagination, maybe the following will better convey the message: Last year, the government should have been able to collect some P490 billion in taxes (the so-called tax potential), according to a paper written by tax expert Nene Guevara. However, it actually collected only about P298 billion. That means that the tax leakage, the difference between potential and actual, was P192 billion. Even if we excluded the leakages in the individual income tax, that would still have left roughly P133 billion in uncollected taxes—enough to have almost wiped out the government deficit for the year.

Focusing on the BIR, which is responsible for raising the largest proportion of tax revenues, we see that its revenues increased by 1.2 percent in 1999 even as nominal GDP rose by 11.9 percent, and increased by 5.1 percent in 2000, even as nominal GDP rose by 10.9 percent.

Is this good, bad or indifferent? Put it this way: It shows that BIR collections have not been growing in proportion with nominal output, which is the least that should have happened.

Moreover, over the last decade the BIR collected at an average growth rate of 13.5 percent annually—and this already reflects the dismal performance of the last three years. Which means that revenue collections during the last three years of the decade were well below what they were in the first seven years. This, in spite of the passage into law of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) at the end of 1997, which was supposed to do the sort of things tax packages do: increase the tax base, improve equity, simplify collections, reduce discretion and harassment, etc., etc.

Thus, when Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez came in with the Macapagal administration, he had his work practically cut out for him. It should be clear, after all, that the CTRP wasn't working simply because his two immediate predecessors hadn't gotten around to implementing it.

For example, although the CTRP authorizes it, the BIR, after three years, had not yet set presumptive income levels especially for the hard-to-tax groups, e.g., the self-employed (lawyers, doctors). Neither has it implemented the provision that fuse-on stamps should be attached to packs of cigarettes, which means that there is no check on whether the right amount of tax has been paid. (That tax examiners signed and certified as correct blank production forms on production volume is yet another matter.)

That isn't all. The BIR has hardly begun to implement the tax on fringe benefits provided by the CTRP. Neither has it prescribed the ceilings on allowable deductions as it has been authorized to do. Or published the list of taxpayers and their income taxes paid (in the interest of transparency as well as applying social pressure, presumably). It has even, would you believe, "misinterpreted" a provision in the CTRP which calls for a 12-percent increase in cigarette taxes come 2000—to the detriment (again) of government tax revenues.

Given this dismal performance, these sins of commission and omission, one would have thought that the BIR would be figuratively hanging its head in shame, or desperately searching its collective conscience to find out what went wrong, or firmly resolving to do what it takes to improve its performance.

Think again.

When Bañez came in, he wasted no time in reviewing the performance of his revenue district officers (his two-year experience as deputy to Fidel Ramos' BIR chief Liway Chato meant he didn't have to go through a learning curve). Four months later, he was ready to make his first major move to improve tax collection efficiency. Specifically, he wanted to reshuffle and reassign (not fire, mind you) some of his RDOs—at most 20 out of a total of 115.

What happened as a result of that move is an illustration of the lengths some bureaucrats will go to maintain the status quo. How hard it is to try to reform.

Suffice it to say that the affected RDOs filed two different cases with the regional trial court (and almost succeeded in one case, save for the timely intervention of the Supreme Court) to prevent their reassignment. Failing that, they filed a case with the Comelec, charging Bañez with violations of the election code. This is still pending. They have also filed a case with the Ombudsman, charging him with plunder, of all things. In between, they took out full-page ads in the newspapers against him.

Politicians, who have the reputation of being *kapal-muks*, have nothing on these people.

However, it seems their desperate antics have earned the ire of the other 95 or so RDOs all over the Philippines. They want to dissociate themselves from the Philippine Association of RDOs, which reportedly is controlled by their Metro Manila colleagues who are fighting Bañez. So they have set up their own association.

Thus, there is hope for Bañez and his intended reforms. Let's hope he succeeds, with the help of those in the BIR who do have the interests of the country at heart.

Floating rate still best option–Singson

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has mentioned currency control as an "option" in stabilizing the exchange rate, and the immediate reaction of the business community was nervousness. Doubtless she was influenced by her visit to Malaysia where the ringgit has been pegged at 3.8 to one US dollar for the past three years now. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad imposed currency controls at the height of the Asian financial crisis in 1998, in defiance of the World Bank and the IMF, which predicted dire consequences for the Malaysian economy. But the ringgit held on and those institutions had to admit that Malaysia has done better than most of its neighbors.

Will currency control work for the Philippines? There are those who think it won't, pointing to several factors that differentiates the Malaysian situation from RP's. Mahathir, in his 20 years in office, has the businessmen in his grip and when he imposed currency control, few balked. As former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson pointed out to this columnist, the Malaysian government allows its citizens to bring only 10,000 ringgit ($2,600) when they travel.

President Macapagal has been in office for just over seven months and she can't say the same about her hold over the business community, though she is increasingly breaking down barriers of resistance to her rule. It's hard to see our businessmen and tourists being limited to carrying $2,600 when traveling.

Besides, as knowledgeable observers point out, even in Malaysia controls are not working all that well. The foreign reserves are dwindling, a consequence of the exchange rate no longer reflecting the market rate.

* * *

Gabby Singson started his illustrious banking career in the old Central Bank's import control department decades ago, and he has participated in the making of many policies on the subject of control. Right now he feels very hesitant about imposing controls. "We've been through this many times," he says, recalling the P2 to $1 exchange rate in 1949, which became P3.90 to $1 in 1965, after which the rate was allowed to float in 1970. He asserts that controls only gave rise to the black market and a lot of graft and corruption. This was because sellers were required to sell to the banking system at prevailing rates while those who needed dollars had to get an "allocation" which supposedly was regulated by certain criteria of need, but in reality was subject to *palakasan* and corruption. Some importers were known to have sold part of their allocation to the black market.

Singson stressed that while currency control is "an option, like many other options," the best system is "still what we have now." Which is, a floating-rate system where the Central Bank intervenes only when there's too much fluctuation.

* * *

The opposition has tried to make capital out of two allegations in the Lacson case. Sen. Edgardo Angara asserted during the interpellation following Sen. Panfilo Lacson's privilege speech that Lacson is being hit by Col. Victor Corpus because he is an opposition frontrunner for 2004. This doesn't wash. For one thing, it's debatable if Lacson would be considered for 2004. There are other possible candidates for 2004 such as Senate President Franklin Drilon, Education Secretary Raul Roco and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, who are not being sprayed with mud. Lacson is under fire not because he is presidential timber but because he has been implicated in so many cases. The US government, in fact, appears to be conducting its investigation of his activities out of fear of his possible connections to the drug world.

The opposition also tries to ride on the allegation that Corpus was once a defector to the communist side and could now be a "Trojan horse" of the Left in the Macapagal administration, a national security risk. Nothing can be more ridiculous. Corpus paid for his youthful mistake with 10 years' imprisonment during the Marcos regime and has long returned to the fold of the law. If Lacson's links to the drug world were to be proven, that would constitute a real national security risk.

* * *

Over the past days, I asked people from various walks of life who between the two has more credibility. I noted that Corpus came out well ahead of Lacson, even though he hasn't presented much evidence up to this point. For one thing, Lacson and his close aides at the defunct PAOCTF, two of whom have fled abroad, have built up quite a reputation; it seems that many people are ready to believe the worst about them. Then Corpus disclosed that Lacson flew to Hong Kong a day after the investigation into his alleged Hong Kong bank account was announced, allegedly in an effort to control the damage. Corpus provided the date of Lacson's flight and other details, which contributed to the credibility of his story.

* * *

Every Sunday at 9:15 p.m. over dzRH, I join Cecile Guidote-Alvarez in featuring private-sector efforts to alleviate poverty. In the process, we have discovered many laudable programs that hopefully would make a difference in the lives of the very poor. Over the past three weeks, however, we zeroed in on government's efforts, in order to understand the thrusts of President Macapagal's State of the Nation Address. A cornerstone of the administration's efforts to rev up the economy is to speed up lending at the grass-roots level—increasing the current half a million small borrowers by about 300,000 new borrowers every year.

* * *

Last Sunday Jose Medina, executive vice president of the government's lead agency in micro-lending, the People's Credit and Finance Corp., explained his agency's setup and goals. Established in 1995 by President Ramos as a wholly capitalized entity of the National Livelihood Support Fund, which, in turn, is supervised and controlled by the Land Bank, the PCFC also draws capitalization from the Asian Development Bank. However, Medina said, the PCFC does not appear in the lending picture; instead, it lends credit through some 200 conduits across the nation, made up of rural banks and NGOs. The target borrowers are those with gross household incomes of P10,000 a month or less, with ongoing livelihood activity. Medina said that the credit system, which is organized in cell groups of five within a center composed of from 25 to 30 borrowers, has a 98-percent collection rate from the NGOs. More interesting is the PCFC's preference for women borrowers. This is due to the fact that international studies have shown that women are far better borrowers than the men.

* * *

Tonight is your last opportunity to watch the staging of Shakespeare's "Julius Ceasar" by the Ateneo High School's Dulaang Sibol at the Onofre Pagsanghan Theater at 6:30 p.m.

Women and the faces of poverty

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DURING the last general assembly of Pilipina in 1999, Ging Quintos Deles, one of our "founding mothers," gave the members an orientation on the Estrada administration. It was important, she said, for us to understand the basic impulses that drove the new national leadership.

As it happens, Ging would spend the next year or so actively engaging the Erap administration. And when the abuses, excesses and wrong-headed policies of the government led the country to disaster, Ging was at the forefront of the anti-Erap movement that culminated in the massive show of people power at the Edsa Shrine.

Today, Ging is part of the Macapagal Cabinet, as lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). As such, she is the chief architect and implementor of the government's avowed top priority: the eradication of poverty.

When she addressed a public forum last Thursday, which also ushered in Pilipina's general assembly, it was to speak on "Women and the Anti-Poverty Program of the Macapagal Government." Listening to her and recalling our last GA, I couldn't help marveling at how Ging, and Pilipina, had closed yet another circle in its life as an organization. "For many of us in government," Ging said in her talk, "the May 1 assault on Malacañang provided a dramatic glimpse of the extreme depths of poverty among our people. We saw in the anger and rage of those who marched to Mendiola the depths of despair among segments of our people and their complete alienation not only from government but from all social institutions, including NGOs…For many of us, May 1 has served as the clarion call that reawakened us to the reality that the poor, especially the poorest of the poor, cannot or will not wait."

* * *

AN OFT-REPEATED saying in the women's movement is that "poverty wears a woman's face." So while she prefaced her talk with the latest statistics on poverty incidence, Ging said she would also try "to put some faces and voices to the experience of poverty and the current effort of government to address the problems of the poor." This she did by talking about "three real women" she met in the course of visiting urban poor communities in Metro Manila. Here then are Ging's "portraits" of three women named Marta, Omeng and Shirley:

"I met Marta during our Kalahi (Kapitbisig Laban sa Kahirapan) Community Day in Barangay Cabrera in Pasay. The local social workers had selected her family to be the recipient of cash assistance from DSWD's program on Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations or AICS. I accompanied the DSWD personnel in bringing the cash donation to their home. Home was a small, one-room affair that seemed to teem with children, the smallest ones emerging from under the bed on one side of the divider that cut the room in half and from under the kitchen shelf by the wall on the other side of the divider. It turned out that there were nine children in all, a virtual stairway with the oldest being a senior in high school while the youngest was in pre-school age," Ging recalls. Marta's husband was a construction worker but he didn't have regular work. Marta herself earned no income and was happy to join the Tesda training on food processing and candle-making in their barangay. When their eldest son graduated from high school, Marta said she hoped he would be able to avail of a college scholarship. "Needless to say," notes Ging, "Marta was very grateful for the small educational cash assistance granted to their family by DSWD."

* * *

GING first met Omeng at a radio program where they were both guests. "The previous week, the President had made an unannounced visit to their community. Sitting on benches with some of the residents in one of the *eskinitas*, there not being room enough in any of the houses, the President as usual inquired about the most urgent needs of the community. The answer came fast and easy. First and foremost, the residents wanted security of land tenure. They were not sure, however, who owned the land." There and then, recounts Ging, the President made calls and determined that the PPA was the landowner. She then secured the commitment of the PPA administrator that the residents would be accommodated in a low-cost housing program of the PPA in the area. A few days later, the PPA administrator visited their place to begin discussions with them. "The barangay captain said that in his several decades of residence in Baseco, for the first time he was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel of their long advocacy for land security and housing." The lack of a schoolhouse was solved quickly when container vans were used and converted to schoolrooms. When asked by the radio announcer to give a message to other women like her, Omeng said: "Let's stop having so many children. It's very hard to raise many children with all their needs."

* * *

GING met the third woman, Shirley, during a search for new talents that is part of "Tipanan sa Barangay," the cultural component of Kalahi. Tipanan is easily Kalahi's most popular program, with from 60 to over a hundred barangay residents queuing up to join the auditions. Winners receive cash prizes and additional training, with a grand inter-barangay contest planned for December.

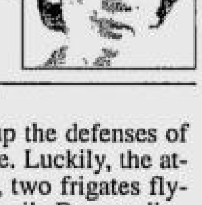
Shirley's son had joined the Tipanan and won first place in his barangay. She accompanied the boy to another radio program featuring some of the winners and, says Ging, "he sang with a voice and style that took our breath away." When she told Shirley "Your son's voice is your riches," Shirley said, "*Oo, iyon ang aking consuelo* (Yes, that is my consolation)."

"People don't believe that it would change people's lives when you hold a medical mission, hold a singing contest or give educational assistance," says Ging. But sometimes, it does.

Events in the late 18th century

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



THE LAST governor of the Philippines in the 18th century was Don Rafael Maria de Aguilar y Ponce de Leon under whose aegis several changes were initiated in Manila. For the first time the city acquired sidewalks of granite stone (*piedra China*) imported from Canton. The Plaza Mayor was paved with the same material and landscaped. In its center a statue of Carlos IV, who had sent the small pox vaccine to the colony, was installed. While Juan Adam had made the wax model in Spain, it was cast in bronze in Manila.

It was also Aguilar who had the streets of Manila lighted with oil lamps and of his own initiative established an observatory, an art school and a school for first mates. He also tried unsuccessfully to set up a school for medicine and pharmacology.

The British occupation of the colony was still fresh in people's minds so that in November 1795 a squadron under Don Ignacio Maria de Alava left Cadiz to reinforce the defenses. Composed of three warships and some frigates, they first stopped by the Americas and did not arrive in Cavite until the following December. That same year, England conquered the island of Trinidad and attacked Puerto Rico, Cadiz and Sta. Cruz de Tenerife.

In the meantime, a Danish frigate arrived in Manila and warned the Spanish that an English squadron under Admiral Raynier in Madras composed of seven ships, six frigates and a corvette, plus three ships requisitioned from the East India Company bringing 15,000 men, was set to attack the Philippines. Three more frigates were in the Moluccas waiting for orders, and in Cape of Good Hope was the squadron under Admiral Sringle with six warships, six frigates and two transports.

When Manila heard about the attacks against Spanish colonies, Aguilar promptly hid the money of the treasury and the Obras Pias (these were all looted during the previous encounter with the British) and shored up the defenses of the city and prepared for battle. Luckily, the attack was called off. However, two frigates flying French banners entered Manila Bay sending word that they had nearly been captured by an English schooner and needed help. When the Spanish soldiers boarded their ship, they were seized by the fake Frenchmen who took their uniforms and surprised three small boats on their way to the provinces, stealing money and the goods they were bringing. The frigates were part of Admiral Raynier's British squadron.

They proceeded to Zamboanga, flying the Spanish flag and ready to surprise the garrison, but they were unmasked and there was a short skirmish between the cannons in the fort and the two ships. The attack was repulsed. The frigates returned to Macao were their commander was said to have been severely reprimanded for having acted without orders.

Between 1784 and 1785, a *calzada* was constructed outside the Walled City beside the left bank of the Pasig River. It faced the bulwarks of San Gabriel, San Lorenzo, San Andres and San Diego, ending near the sea. In the last decade of the century, this *calzada* aside from becoming the lungs of the city also became the venue for the social event of the day when Manileños went for their *paseo* in the late afternoon. On horseback, on foot or by carriage, they went in search of some relief from the heat until all the church bells rang the "Angelus," indicating the end of the *paseo*.

Aguilar, writing to a friend, stated that "the luxury was immense, the use of abundant and heavy decorations was common among the natives and the *mestizos*. The women use rich clothes with embroideries of gold and silver thread. There are more than 500 carriages and almost anyone has silver plates for dining and serves 15 or 20 courses, has 20 to 25 servants, 16 to 20 horses, infinite wardrobe as well as gold, pearls, diamonds, etc." (He might just have been exaggerating a bit.)

It was also in 1789 that the scientific expedition under Alejandro Malaspina with his two corvettes, Descubierta and Atrevida, left Cadiz after passing through the coast of the Americas, crossed the Pacific and arrived in Cavite in 1792. They undertook hydrographic studies, while their naturalists, Luis Nee, Tadeo Haenke and Antonio de Pineda, studied the flora and fauna of Luzon. A painter, Fernando Brambila, drew scenes of Manila and of the port of Zamboanga. Pineda died in the Ilocos and in 1794 an obelisk was set up in Malate in his honor in what may have been the first botanical garden not only in Manila but in Asia inside the property of the Sociedad Economica de Amigos del Pais. For a time Pasay was also known as Pineda.

Real Compania also hired Juan de Cuellar, a botanist, to study the flora and fauna and to send back whatever "curiosities" he could find to the Botanical Garden in Madrid. De Cuellar collaborated with the Malaspina expedition and accompanied them to the hacienda in Calauang where the entrepreneur Salgado was experimenting with cinnamon. Cuellar drew excellent studies of Filipino flora during the years 1786 to 1801 that are conserved in the Jardin Botanico in Madrid. He died in the Ilocos and was buried in Vigan, according to Spanish anthropologists Belen Bañas.

Rainy Mondays

YOUNGBLOOD

Ayen

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT was one rainy Monday. It was also my first day in college. I was 16, fresh from the province, a daddy's girl and very naive. I met this very dashing guy in my Humanities class. It was love at first sight!

Who wouldn't fall head over heals in love with him? Aside from his good looks, he was very witty. Our professor would usually praise him for always topping our quizzes despite his absences and being able to argue with him though he missed many lectures.

He was also very sweet and caring. He would fetch me from my classes and send me sweet notes and flowers. He treated me like a princess and I loved every minute of it.

Another piece of good news (at least for me) changed all that. Another rainy Monday some months after, I told him I was pregnant. I was anticipating his joy and excitement, but instead he freaked out. Worse, he insisted that I get an abortion.

Completely shocked, I ran out into the rain that seemed to share my sentiments. I prayed that things would go back to normal the next day. But I guess the lightning and thunder were louder than my prayers. A week passed, and he never came to see me.

Swallowing my pride and dignity, I went to their *tambayan*. He was very cold, indifferent and noncommittal. Close to begging, I asked him to help me. I couldn't go home and face my parents. I couldn't raise our baby alone.

He retorted, "I told you to be on pill! I can't marry you. You're rich. Well, princess, I'm not. If you want to stay with me, you will have to strive against the odds."

With so much love and certainty, I said yes.

I stopped studying to keep people from talking about my condition. I didn't want the news to reach my parents. I just wrote them a letter telling that I had to go abroad for an exchange study program.

They didn't buy it. A friend told me they flew all the way from Cebu to look for me. But I hid myself in a small, shabby house that was entirely different from the home I grew up in.

Terrible months

My first six months with him were terrible. I experienced many firsts in my life. But I couldn't complain, and I had to stay and bear everything for my baby.

I had hoped that things would get better by the time our baby was born, but they didn't. He would come home, late and usually drunk. He would complain about everything: the crying of the baby, his studies, my cooking, the bills. I had already exhausted all my savings on our hospital bills, some baby stuff and our daily expenses. And when we needed more money, I sold my jewelry, my cell phone, my original CDs and CD player.

Then I bought an oven. He told me I was nuts for believing that baking cookies would help tide us over our financial problems. But luckily, my baking allowed us to earn P200 a day.

Twenty-four hours seemed to be not long enough for me to do all the things I needed to do. I would wake up early to bake, do the laundry, bathe the baby, clean the house, cook and do the dishes, massage him. On a typical day, I would manage to get four hours of sleep. At 17, I was already Superwoman.

It was a rainy Monday again. I woke up earlier than usual because it was my baby's first birthday. I baked a big cake, cooked *pancit*, prepared some sandwiches and bought a Coke "Litro." I was teary-eyed, realizing that my first birthday was grander by far than my baby's. I felt so sad because I couldn't even invite Mama and Papa to my son's first birthday celebration. I felt bad because this wasn't how I imagined things to be on my son's first birthday. Heck, I couldn't even invite other kids to his birthday.

Big fight

But all my efforts went for naught. I expected him to celebrate with us at least. However, it was already 3 a.m. the following day when he came home. His excuse was that his fraternity was involved in a "rumble."

For the first time, my patience snapped. We fought that early morning, waking up the entire neighborhood.

Even with my black eye, I decided to go to the mall with my baby the next day to forget my grief (even temporarily). I saw a lot of familiar faces. Some were old classmates. They all looked young, lively, pretty and worry-free. I couldn't help but envy them.

Passing through some large mirrors, I paused and looked into them intently. I could hardly recognize myself. I looked so miserable. Gone were the twinkling eyes, dazzling smile and youthful glow. In a few more days, I would be celebrating my 18th birthday, but already I looked so old and withered.

I saw other babies with their parents and I felt a sharp stab in my heart. I wanted to buy my baby everything, but all I could afford was a small inflatable balloon.

Going back to the house, I surveyed everything. Many of the stuff there were bought by my parents for my freshman year. A few, old kitchen utensils, a one-burner stove, a toaster, an old cassette player, a desk fan, small and over-used foam, my baby's hand-made crib and two small cabinets. His clothes and pillows were the only signs that he was also living in the house.

For the nth time, all my frustrations and anguish surfaced again. And I cried my heart out. My baby must have felt it also because he joined me in crying.

Cross lifted

We didn't see him for three days. On the night of my 18th birthday, he came home so very drunk that I had to help him get into bed. As I was gently pushing and putting him on the bed, slowly my tears flowed. When his arm slipped off my shoulders, I felt so relieved. It was like letting go of my cross.

I went back to Cebu with my baby. My arrival was like the modern-day version of the return of the prodigal son. With open arms, my parents welcomed us back. There's really no place like home!

Time flew fast. I graduated with honors in college last April. Now, I'm working as a chemist in a big company. My son is now enrolled in pre-school. I know he'll grow into a tough and witty guy because he looks just like me.

In December, I'm getting married to a man I love. He adores my son. I have chosen another Monday as our Wedding Day. After all those hard times, I still want to believe that not all Mondays are rainy, that my rainy Mondays are over.

Not so long ago, I made a big decision. And I'm glad I did!

Ayen, 22, works for a socio-civic organization. She says this is the true story of a dear friend whose identity she wants to protect.

THEY SAID

War on gambling

"No matter how big the accomplishments of these officers are in other fronts, they shall be liable for failure to curb illegal gambling."
—Interior Secretary Joey Lina on relief of police officers who failed to stop "jueteng" in their areas

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Angels of vengeance come to roost

SEN. Panfilo Lacson was lying when he said that one needs a social security number to open a bank account in the United States. Being a graduate student here on a J-1 visa, I don't have such a number but I was able to open two checking accounts.

The only thing you need to open an account is an ID card issued by your school, by the state, or by your employer. A driver's license from the Division of Motor Vehicles is also acceptable.

If published reports are to be believed, Lacson has an account in the Bank of America in Van Nuys, California, where some of my relatives live. I also have an account in the same bank. My other bank account is with First Union in Highland Park, New Jersey, where I am studying. But of course, unlike Lacson, I'm lucky if I have three digits in the balance of my First Union account after I pay the rent and my bills.

Like your editorialist, I also wonder why Lacson keeps on mentioning the word "hell." It only reminds me of two allusions. The first is Shakespearean: "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." The second is biblical: the angels of vengeance have come to roost, and woe unto those who have the blackest of hearts.—**DANTON REMOTO, Department of English, Rutgers University, Murray Hall, 510 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA**

LETTERS

Are book publishers marginalized?

GOD forbid that undeserving and unqualified party-list organizations will be given seats in a Congress which is already lost and listless, like a wet and soggy paper boat on the heavily polluted Pasig River.

I dread, in particular, the possible entry of the party-list group Aklat (Asosasyon Para sa Kaunlaran ng Industriya ng Aklat) on the following grounds:

- Aklat was founded by book publishers, many of whom are top government textbook suppliers for all the public schools in the country. Now, is there anybody out there who can honestly tell me that industry giants such as Rex Book Store and Abiva Publishing House belong to the marginalized sector of our society? Where does Aklat fall under the 12 sectors identified by the Constitution? The urban poor? The indigenous cultural minority?
- I have in my possession three textbooks on History, each one of them containing an astounding 600 errors! Such is the deplorable state of textbooks and book publishing in our country today and for these publishers to now declare that the only reason they want representation in government is that they want to improve the book publishing industry seems to me duplicitous, sanctimonious and hypocritical. Until the issue of defective textbooks is resolved, the printing of more and more books remains a purely commercial enterprise, nothing more.

The people must therefore resist, at all costs, the blatant subversion and prostitution of the noble purpose and intention of the law which created the party-list system: to give voice to the really marginalized and the truly under-represented sectors of our society. The law meant to stop the flood of rich and powerful political families who manage to get themselves elected to Congress year in and year out. To give more food to the already satiated is to further starve our legion of one-meal-a-day, live-under-the-bridge poor.

All political parties must likewise be excluded from the party-list system. To allow them entry would be like asking Bantay to watch over dinner, or inviting vampires to tend the blood banks!—**ANTONIO CALIPJO GO, 199 Sauyo Road, Novaliches, Quezon City**

Politicians are enemies of the poor

I AM not a fan of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I did not vote for her when she ran for senator and then vice president. For so long, I doubted her motivations.

Today, however, six months into her term as President, I find her quality of service refreshing. I hear of no mansions or mistresses, cronies or casinos. She comes prepared for meetings with no trace of alcohol, facilitating such sessions with skill and sobriety. She is a genius at time management.

Her government's strategy for our poor, as articulated in her Sona, is concrete. It is time measured with specific targets and clear indicators. From a social worker's point of view, it is different from the nebulous "Erap *para sa mahirap*." If such a strategy is implemented, with as many of us helping each other, our poor will experience direct relief in their daily lives, through symbols which they readily recognize: rice, medicine, housing. Never before, in my experience, has our poor been given such deliberate focus.

Our big problem in the implementation of these plans to respond to our grinding problem of massive poverty, however, is not money. We have plenty—used unscrupulously.

Our problem is our politicians, particularly some in the Senate. They rant and rave, nit-pick, threaten, block, pontificate and snooze, become blind and deaf to the crimes of the past, suddenly suffer from amnesia—all these at our expense, while we Filipinos pay for their fat salaries, bloated staff, vehicles, representation, travels, per diems, meals, entourages, offices, functions, bonuses, etc. Indeed, the biggest roadblock to the poverty alleviation campaign is our dirty politicians. They are the enemies of the poor.

For them, we pray as the Bible bids:

"Break the teeth of these fierce lions, O God

"May they disappear like water draining away

"May they be crushed as weeds on a path.

"May they be like snails that dissolve into slime." (Psalm 58)—**SR. CHRISTINE TAN, Alay sa Kapwa Christian Community, 2172 Fidel Reyes St., Malate, Manila**

Adequate relief goods in Bicol

THIS refers to a news item last July 29 ("Mayon remains restive; food shortage denied") which stated that the Department of Social Welfare and Development Region 5 will take over the feeding chore from the provincial government.

We wish to clarify that the DSWD Region 5 will not take over the feeding chore because that is among the functions vested in the local government units which provide direct relief assistance to their constituents. This is mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991 which devolved emergency assistance services to LGUs. The national DSWD's role is to extend technical assistance, monitoring and resource augmentation.

DSWD director Consolacion Arafiles has also assured Albay Gov. Al Bichara that the DSWD has sufficient relief supplies and is ready to augment them if needed. In fact, on July 30, the DSWD Region 5 released P600,000 worth of relief goods to the Albay provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) headed by the governor.—**SUSAN B. ARGEL, director, Public Affairs and Liaison Service, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City**

DuPont says Teflon is safe

OUR attention has been drawn to reports appearing in some sections of the media about a University of Toronto study on the coatings used in cookware.

Teflon is a registered trademark of DuPont. Since it is misleading to link the study to real-life conditions for the use of non-stick cookware, we would like to make the following clarification, which was first sent to Nature magazine in answer to an article appearing in its July 19, 2001, issue: The basic finding of the recent University of Toronto study that is published in Nature magazine—that fluoropolymers, including those products used in non-stick coatings for cookware, will decompose at extremely high temperatures—is not new information. Any material, if heated to a high enough temperature, will decompose. However, it is misleading to link the study discussed in the Nature article to any real-life conditions for use of non-stick cookware.

Tests have repeatedly shown that Teflon non-stick coatings are safe for normal kitchen use. Teflon non-stick coatings will not begin to deteriorate until the temperature of the cookware reaches about 500 degrees F (260 degrees C), and significant decomposition of the coating will occur only when temperatures exceed about 660 degrees F (340 degrees C). These temperatures alone are well above the normal cooking range; as a comparison, fats, butter and cooking oil will begin to scorch and smoke at about 392 degrees F (200 degrees C).

The study referred to in the Nature magazine article involved heating the fluoropolymers to temperatures as high as 932 degrees F, hundreds of degrees higher than would be realized in a kitchen environment.

DuPont has for many years placed top priority on protecting the safety and health of employees, customers and the public. Consistent with those values, prior to their market introduction all products are evaluated for potential hazards. Prior to their market introduction some 40 years ago, Teflon non-stick coatings underwent exhaustive studies at the company's Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine. The United States Food and Drug Administration has found them acceptable for conventional kitchen use, as have health regulatory agencies throughout the world. DuPont knows of no record of serious, chronic or acute health problems related to the use of non-stick cookware.

Should you need any additional information on the above, you are welcome to contact us at Tel. No. 818-9911 or Didi.R.Belonio@ phl.dupont.com.—**DIDI R. BELONIO, market development manager, DuPont Fluoroproducts, DuPont Far East Inc., 8th Floor, Globalbank Bldg., 777 Paseo de Roxas, 1228 Makati City**

Gov't lands given to the poor

ALLOW me to clarify the news item last Aug. 7, 2001, titled "Gloria gives land to QC poor," where it was stated that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo awarded land titles "owned by the DENR to residents of Quezon City."

While we welcome your interest in the programs of the Macapagal administration for the poor, let me correct however that the land does not belong to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but is a proclaimed "national government center property" through Presidential Proclamation No. 137 dated Aug. 11, 1987. As such, it is therefore the property of the national government placed only at the disposition of the DENR.

The department, through its Land Management Bureau (LMB), is the lead government agency which identifies and manages alienable and disposable lands fit for disposal under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) for the various housing programs of the government.

In this case, however, the DENR's role was to set aside residential lands for the pro-poor programs of the President, conduct and approve the land surveys, cause the subdivision of the land into singular, independent lots and supervise the processing of residential land titles.

We are optimistic that more alienable and disposable lands will be awarded to the poor in the government's continuing effort to provide decent and affordable housing for the Filipino family.—**BUTCH A. GARCIA, media relations officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Fiction foisted on the public

THE FICTION is that in this country there are, on the one hand, an administration and, on the other, an opposition. Lest we discover that the administration-opposition arrangement is a mere fiction, Sen. Blas Ople talks of the "guns of August," the Lacson-Corpus war is on, and Sen. Sergio Osmeña is engaged in a heroic filibuster.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, the current administration-opposition encounters in this country are a "tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." For the truth is that the administration and the opposition are united on the policies which really matter here: the globalization policies imposed upon our government and people by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. These are the policies which have destroyed our national economy (production for the domestic market), resulting in the destruction of thousands of enterprises and millions of jobs and the unprecedented poverty and hunger being experienced by our people today.

The evidence is clear and unmistakable that both the administration and the opposition are for the WB-IMF-WTO policies and programs here.

It is said that the first step in problem-solving is the recognition of the problem. Since neither the administration nor the opposition is willing to recognize the problem, neither is a part of the solution.

It seems we, the people, are now close to the historic point when we have to think and act for ourselves. —**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Hitler's last courier

FEATURE

Bruce Olson

WALDPORT, Ore.—In the morning, Armin Lehmann gets out of bed and uses two crutches to make his way to the bathtub, where he soaks in scalding water so he can walk.

In this he's not unique, for he's an aging veteran who still suffers from wounds received in World War II. But in another way, this 73-year-old retired travel executive is far different from other veterans. Lehmann spent the last 10 days of the war in a bunker with Adolf Hitler, Eva Braun, Joseph Goebbels, Martin Bormann and dozens of other Nazis trying to win the Battle of Berlin.

Lehmann was Hitler's last courier, a 16-year-old member of the Hitler Youth who ran back and forth across bloody Wilhelmstrasse from the Fuehrerbunker to Nazi Party headquarters, carrying water, medicine and messages.

"I wasn't fearless," Lehmann writes in his book "Hitler's Last Courier." "But I was able to conquer my fears. I was miserable but like a soldier I didn't buckle under the cries, the screams and the shouts around me. I parted with those horrors inside me and maintained as valiant a state of mind as possible."

Thousands of miles away and 56 years later, Lehmann sits in his airy living room a few hundred yards from the Pacific Ocean in the small town of Waldport, Oregon, 150 miles southwest of Portland. He speaks of nightmares, of piles of bodies. He speaks softly with traces of a German accent, running a hand through his gray hair, shifting on his couch, looking for a comfortable position.

"I had to be a good boy, obedient. My father was straight Prussian and he never repented. Even in 1946 he said the Jews had themselves to blame," Lehmann said.

Lehmann's father was a car salesman who joined the Nazi Party and became a propagandist in Hitler's intelligence unit. The Nazis made him feel important. He had money and he wore a uniform.

Lehmann's father beat him, mocked him as a "washrag" and forced him to carry a medicine ball to become strong. On April 20, 1938, at age 9, Armin Lehmann was initiated into the Hitler Youth.

Jews and communists were identified as the enemies of the state. Theories of the master race were drilled into the young members. No one contradicted the teachers.

By April 20, 1945, now 16, Lehmann had been wounded in the eastern front, awarded a medal for bravery and selected by Hitler Youth leader Artur Axmann to serve Hitler in the bunker.

Lehmann puts his feet on a cushion in his living room, his voice rising. "I had seen Hitler in 1938. He looked tall to me then, powerful. But when I saw him there in the bunker he had aged 20 years."

Lehmann stands stiffly, curling his shoulders forward. "Hitler hunched like this," he said. "There were black circles under his eyes, his hand trembled, he tried to hold his uniform coat with his other hand so we didn't see him tremble."

Hitler spoke to a group, including nine new couriers, that day—his 56th birthday. He shook Lehmann's hand and Lehmann could see his eyes were "filled with moisture perhaps because he was taking some kind of drug."

Hitler spoke of a new weapon and said it was imperative that everyone keep fighting with an "iron will."

For 10 days Lehmann lived in a world without day or night, a world of constant danger that left his mind filled with ghastly images.

On April 30, Axmann told Lehmann that Hitler was dead.

Lehmann was the last German runner at his post when the war ended. He broke out of the bunker and was wounded, buried in rubble. He was questioned by the Russians but no one asked about the bunker.

On the last night before Germany was divided, Lehmann crossed the Mulde River into the hands of the Americans.

"My eyes were opened by documentary films of the concentration camps," he said. "Some people said these films were fake. They weren't a fake, they couldn't have been staged. I was stunned."

Lehmann's new life began. He became a reporter on a German paper, married an American teacher and came to New York in 1953. He landed a job with the Associated Press in 1955 and stayed away from Germany.

He went to Japan, he collected art for a gallery in Greenwich Village, he worked for SITA World Travel, advancing from a tour operator to executive vice president. He became an anti-nuclear activist. He wrote poetry.

The bunker receded, but it didn't disappear.

In 1965, Lehmann, now 37, had the first of five heart attacks. A psychiatrist told him "one reason for the attack might be your unresolved past."

As he was recovering, several German journalists who had talked to Axmann arrived on his doorstep. He told them his story and was offered a handsome fee to write his biography.

"I either had to take a lot of money for the book or stick with my career. I was told if I wrote the book I would lose my job. We had a lot of Jewish clients. I decided not to write the book and kept my career."

By 1995 Armin Lehmann was living on the Oregon coast and his story popped up again. He isn't sure how. He did an interview on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. He was in the local post office when a child pointed and said, "Is that the Nazi war criminal?"

"I was flabbergasted and just left the post office. I decided I had to write the book," he said.

Getting the book published was no easy task. Publishers wanted "war stories without the background. They wanted something for the Hitler buffs. I didn't want to write the book for Hitler buffs and I don't see how you can understand my story without my background," he said.

But technology intervened and his book was published by the on-demand Internet press XLibris. It can be ordered through www.xlibris.com or www.amazon.com.

Lehmann's unrepentant father did not live long enough to read the book, having died in 1983. "We held a reunion of the family in the late 1960s, after my heart attack. I attended on condition that no politics would be discussed, but my father got up and began to talk about the old days. I gave him a swift kick in the shin."

"It was the last time I saw him," Lehmann says, running a hand through his hair once more, a wrinkled smile crossing his face.

Reuters

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Bush OKs limited stem cell funding

BUSH

CRAWFORD, Texas—US President George W. Bush backed, but strictly limited, federal funding for embryonic stem cell research in a compromise shaping the future of the promising but controversial science.

"I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one," he said late Thursday as he unveiled the fruit of months of wrestling with the thorny issue in an 11-minute nationally televised prime-time address from his nearby ranch.

The president appeared to have won tentative approval from contending groups for his effort to stake out the middle ground between backers' focus on the promise of developing groundbreaking cures and foes' charges that the embryos' unavoidable destruction amounts to the taking of a human life.

Bush, appearing nervous but speaking in a calm voice, said he would restrict federal funding to some 60 existing genetically diverse stem cell lines culled from already destroyed embryos and able to regenerate themselves indefinitely.

"The life-and-death decision has already been made," he said, addressing the charge by many among his conservative political base who share his opposition to abortion.

Aiming to allay that concern, Bush praised the research's potential to yield cures for currently untreatable diseases even as he declared federal funds will not go toward harvesting new stem cells from embryos.

"This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos that have at least the potential for life," said Bush, a staunch foe of abortion.

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can evolve into blood, liver, muscle and other cells. Researchers hope they can one day be used to repair damaged organs or cure diseases such as Parkinson's, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

It was too early to say whether Bush would pay a political price as a result of his decision, as polls show widespread support for the potentially groundbreaking science even among religious voters.

Perhaps aiming to soften opposition among conservatives, Bush said he would also create a President's Council on Bioethics "to monitor stem cell research, to recommend appropriate guidelines and regulations and to consider all of the medical and ethical ramifications of bio-medical innovation."

Bush said he had sifted through advice from lawmakers; bio-ethicists; his Cabinet; abortion foes; scientists and people afflicted with ailments for which the research may one day find a cure.

The often public tug-of-war for his support had pitted Pope John Paul II, a fervent foe who believes the embryo's inevitable death amounts to murder, against "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve, who hopes the research will one day yield cures for ailments like his paralysis, or diseases like Alzheimer's.

Bush's announcement drew plaudits from the biotechnology industry and only muted concern from some who questioned whether there were actually 60 available cell lines and worried that limiting research to those might hamper science.

Several prominent conservatives greeted the decision with sigh of relief, with Rev. Jerry Falwell, a prominent religious activist, declaring: "What I heard him say tonight I can live with."

Conservative Republican Sen. Sam Brownback, who had opposed federal funding for stem cell research, told CNN he was "pleased about the limitations that he's put on the research—on the embryonic stem cell lines." *AFP*

Stem cells promise medical revolution

BY WILL DUNHAM

WASHINGTON—A revolution is coming in medicine, and versatile human cells called stem cells—some formed just days after a sperm cell fertilizes an egg and others harbored inside the bodies of children and adults—promise to lead the way, researchers say.

Stem cells offer the potential to provide treatments for a fantastic array of diseases affecting millions of people around the world. But it remains mere potential.

One reason is that much more work needs to be done to gain a fuller understanding of the biology of stem cells and perfect therapies that could be used to treat people.

"I think it will be a revolution, a paradigm shift, in how we treat disease," said Helen Blau, who chairs the department of molecular pharmacology at Stanford University School of Medicine. "You enlist the body's own resources to fight its own disease. That's what's so attractive to me about it."

Doctors currently use drugs and surgery to try to shore up or treat tissues and organs damaged by disease. But because stem cells can transform themselves into many other cell types with the right prompting, doctors may be able to replace the damaged tissues and organs to restore healthy function.

So for people with Parkinson's disease, injecting stem cells into the area of the brain that controls muscle movement, where the ailment kills nerve cells, might regenerate the neurons and reverse the disease. For diabetics, the stem cells might regenerate certain cells in the pancreas so the body can make its own insulin rather than relying on shots of it.

"They truly do have the ability to form anything in the body," said University of Wisconsin researcher Dr. James Thomson, who in 1998 became the first to isolate human embryonic stem cells.

Experts said stem cells also could be used to treat: Alzheimer's disease; stroke; heart attack; multiple sclerosis; blood, bone and bone marrow ailments; severe burns by providing skin grafts; spinal cord injuries; and cancer patients who have lost cells and tissue to radiation and chemotherapy.

"There's a lot of science that still needs to be done before we have good treatments. That's not to say that we won't. In three to five years we may have early treatments using these stem cells," said UCLA researcher Dr. Marc Hedrick, who found adult stem cells in fat removed in liposuction.

The current political debate focuses on embryonic stem cells versus so-called adult stem cells, a misnomer because they are also found in children.

About five days after fertilization, the human embryo becomes a blastocyst—a hollow sphere of about 100 cells.

Cells in its outer layer go on to form the placenta and other organs needed to support fetal development in the uterus. The inner cells go on to form virtually all of the tissues of the body. These are the embryonic stem cells used in research.

Adult stem cells are harbored in the bodies of children and adults. They are more specialized than embryonic stem cells and give rise to specific cell types. For example, certain stem cells in the bone marrow spawn red blood cells, white blood cells and blood platelets.

Experts previously believed adult cells did not offer the promise of their embryonic cousins due to this lack of versatility, but recent research suggests they can turn into many more cell types than once believed possible.

Dr. Neil Theise of New York University Medical Center, who has shown that adult stem cells may be as flexible as the embryonic ones, cited strengths and weaknesses for each.

Theise said the advantages of embryonic stem cells include two important qualities: they can become almost anything in the body, and they can be grown in culture in an unlimited quantity. The disadvantages are that a patient's immune system might reject transplants of embryonic stem cells just as some organ transplants are rejected, and that runaway growth of embryonic stem cells could produce tumors, Theise said.

A key advantage of adult stem cells is that because they would be taken from the very patient who would receive them in treatment, there are no rejection issues, Theise said.

Disadvantages include: questions about whether they can transform themselves as readily as embryonic stem cells; difficulty in growing adult cells in culture at the quantity needed to facilitate transplants; and worry that years of exposure to toxins, radiation and DNA replicating errors could leave them with genetic abnormalities, experts said. *Reuters*

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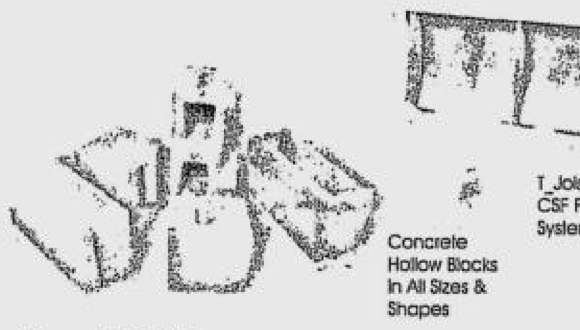
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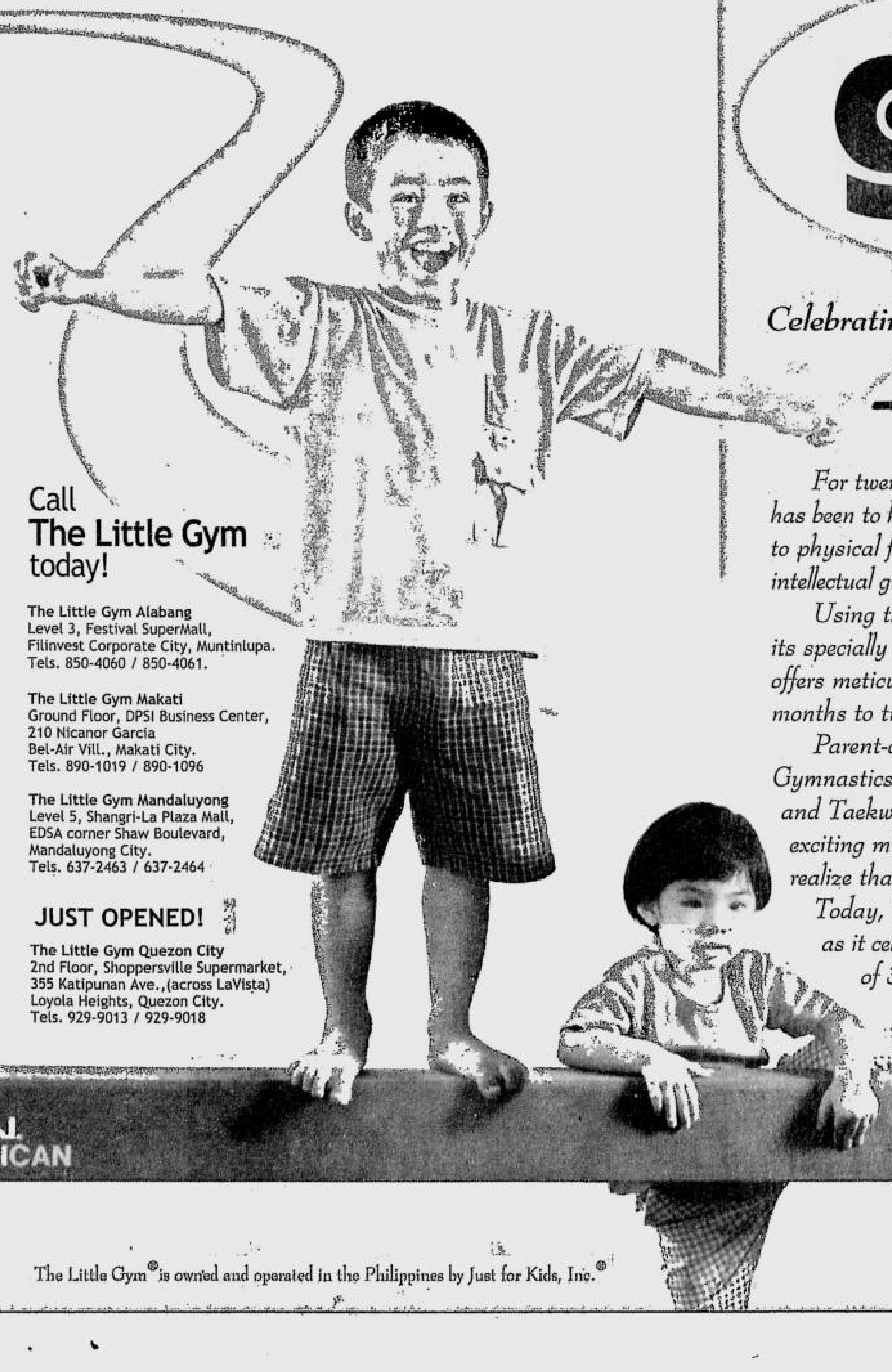

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Koizumi reelected president of ruling party

KOIZUMI

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was re-elected president of Japan's ruling party yesterday after no one registered to challenge him, a party official said.

The Liberal Democratic Party's members of Parliament chose Koizumi for a two-year term ending Sept. 30, 2003, said party spokesperson Kunihiko Kobayashi.

Since the enormously popular premier had no challengers, yesterday's decision was made by a clapping of hands at a party meeting rather than a tally of ballots. Koizumi was first elected LDP president in April.

The president of the LDP is virtually guaranteed the prime minister's job because of the party's dominant position in Parliament.

"I will energetically tackle reform to gain the people's support," Kyodo News agency quoted Koizumi as telling the meeting following his re-election. "As the largest and responsible political party, it is the LDP that can make Japan develop in a new age in a new way," Koizumi was quoted as saying.

The leadership ballot was originally scheduled for September, but party leaders moved it up after Koizumi led the LDP to a decisive victory in elections for the upper house of Parliament on July 29.

Koizumi has become Japan's most popular prime minister in decades by promising to do away with pork-barrel politics and put Japan's economy on a recovery path after more than a decade of malaise.

After being re-elected, Koizumi reiterated his determination to carry out structural changes and urged party leaders to join him in the fight, LDP officials said.

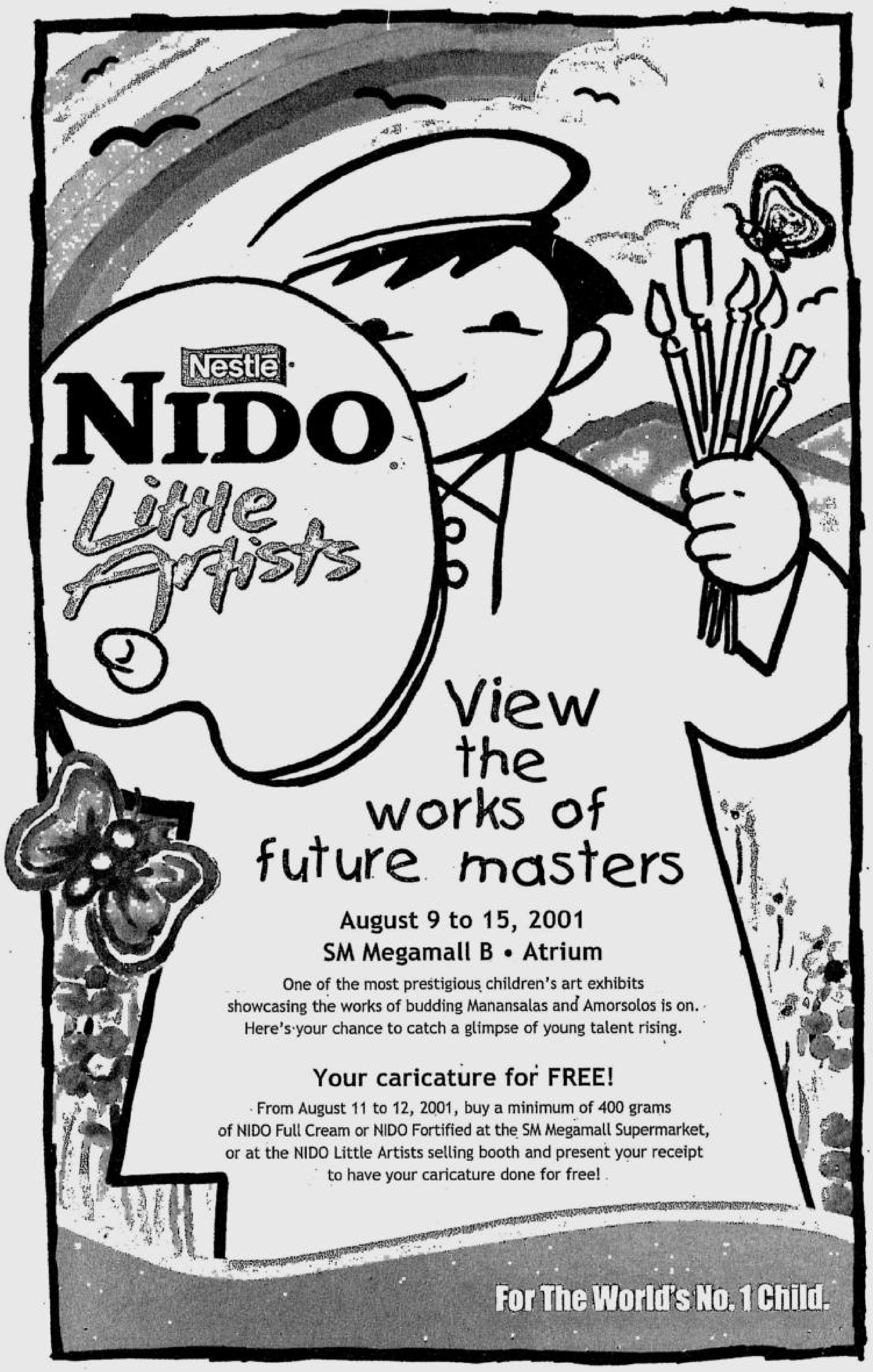
Koizumi's approval ratings have slipped from more than 80 percent to around 70 percent amid concern his reforms—which include ridding banks of massive bad debts—will bring the nation pain as unprofitable businesses go bankrupt.

Japan's fiscal 2002 government budget is expected to slash money for public-works projects and other old-style spending and allocate funds to new areas, such as urban renewal and education.

A proposal for the budget was hammered out Thursday by the prime minister's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy. It was expected to win approval by the Cabinet yesterday.

The council's proposal is low on specifics and provides only the general framework government ministries will follow to come up with allocation requests in the next several weeks. A budget bill still must pass Parliament before the fiscal year begins in April 2002.

The budget for fiscal 2001 totals $670 billion. *AP*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NIDO Little Artists Workshop Now on Its 2nd Year

One of the most fun and worthwhile summer activities for children has produced a bumper crop of outstanding artists for the second straight year.

A total of thirty-two (32) art schools joined the NIDO Little Artists Workshop conducted earlier this year in Metro Manila and key cities nationwide. The number of participating schools represents a three-fold increase over last year which had six hundred (600) students from ten (10) schools.

The overwhelming response required that participants be divided into two (2) age categories. The first group was composed of kids from 6 to 9 years old, while the second group had 10- to 12-year old participants. The culminating activity will be an exhibit-competition of select artworks. The outstanding art pieces are currently on exhibit at the SM Megamall Building B Atrium for public viewing, and awards rites are slated on August 11, 2001.

The NIDO Little Artists Workshop is the brainchild of the marketing team behind Nestle Philippines' NIDO Full Cream Milk, the market leader in the full cream milk category. It was conceptualized and implemented as a vehicle to develop the creative talents in visual arts of children 6 to 12 years old.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0561 S. 2001

Judge slashes $3-B tobacco award to $100M

BOEKEN and son Dylan.

LOS ANGELES—A California judge on Thursday slashed to $100 million a record $3-billion verdict against Philip Morris Cos. in a fraud claim filed by a Marlboro smoker who is dying from lung cancer.

The decision was seen as a victory for Philip Morris, the world's largest tobacco company, although anti-smoking activists said the industry's poor showing in a recent spate of tobacco and health cases on the West Coast could mean more lawsuits from sick smokers.

Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy said that after considering the potential for future damage awards, the original verdict was too high. If the plaintiff, Richard Boeken, does not accept the $100 million, the judge said he would grant a new trial solely on the issue of punitive damages.

Philip Morris vowed to appeal the "grossly excessive" verdict, saying that the Los Angeles trial had erred in excluding evidence related to Boeken's credibility and had concluded with improper instructions to the jury.

"Our appeal will request a complete reversal and retrial on multiple grounds, not the least of which was the passion and prejudice the jury displayed in reaching its verdict," William Ohemeyer, associate general counsel of Philip Morris, said in a statement.

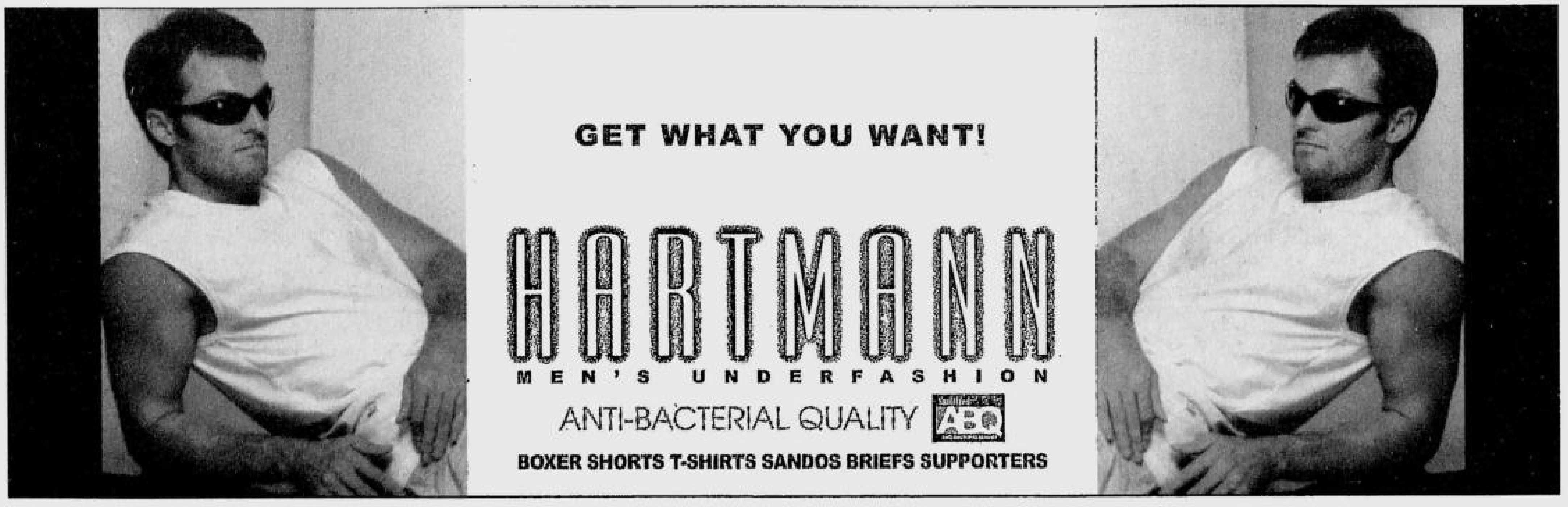
Boeken's lawyer Michael Piuze said a decision on whether or not to accept the reduced damages had not been made and he fully expected the company to appeal the verdict "as far as they can appeal it."

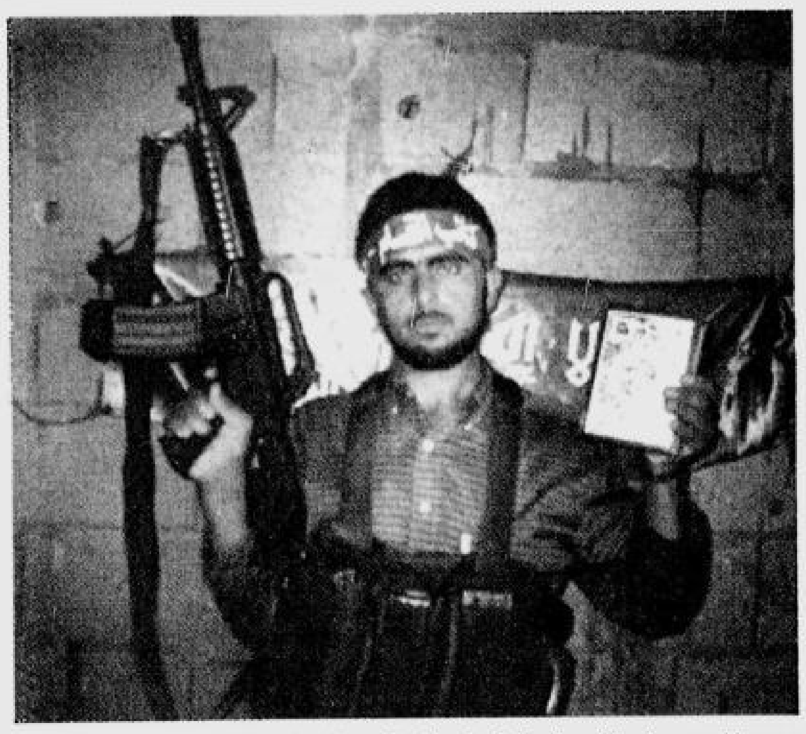
"They have had a scorched-earth policy since the 1950's. They have unlimited funds and resources," Piuze said.

In June, a jury in Los Angeles found Philip Morris liable for concealing the health dangers of cigarettes and awarded Boeken $5.5 million in compensatory damages and $3 billion in punitive damages.

The tobacco giant then asked the judge to reduce the jury's award, arguing that the huge punitive damages—the highest ever for an individual—would lead to a slew of similar lawsuits and was an undue financial burden for the company.

The cigarette maker also argued that the verdict itself should be thrown out because there was no direct evidence proving that Boeken, 56, relied on advice from the tobacco industry regarding the health effects of smoking and the jury was not allowed to hear evidence about his past criminal record, including an early 1990s guilty plea for participating in a scheme to sell oil and gas properties. *Reuters*





SUSPECTED suicide bomber identified by the Islamic militant group Hamas as Izz-el-Din al-Masri holds an M16 rifle and the Koran in this undated photo supplied by Hamas. REUTERS

Palestinian bomber kills 16; Israel attacks in retaliation

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israel launched swift and hard-hitting retaliatory strikes early yesterday, only hours after a Palestinian suicide bombing killed up to 16 people in Jerusalem and injured dozens more.

War planes blitzed Palestinian police headquarters in the West Bank and tanks moved into the Gaza Strip.

An F-16 fighter jet fired three missiles at the Ramallah police station. The building, located in the west of the city, had been evacuated in anticipation of an Israeli attack, Palestinian security officials said.

They said no one was injured in the attack, but that "80 percent" of the building was damaged. The office serves as the Palestinian police headquarters for the West Bank.

Smoke could be seen rising from the scene, and ambulances were rushing to the building, said an AFP correspondent in the town.

And Israeli tanks moved almost a kilometer into Palestinian territory in the Gaza Strip, shelling and destroying a Palestinian security position, said Palestinian officials.

In a simultaneous swoop, Israeli police occupied Orient House, the unofficial headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), searching the office's files, an official at the east Jerusalem site said.

"This is an occupation of the place and an attempt to impose the status quo" of Israeli domination over the Palestinian territories, said the official, Hatem Abdel Kadar.

"We will resist this occupation," he said.

Israeli government spokesperson Daniel Seantam confirmed the operation, saying seven people had been arrested and the building closed "until further orders because it was a center for incitement to violence."

He denied Kadar's claims that two guards had been beaten in the operation.

Israel says the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, is partly responsible for bomb attacks on Israelis, accusing it of inciting bombers and refusing to clamp down on "terrorists."

In another operation, Israeli police also occupied a Palestinian Authority and security office in Abu Dis, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, the Palestinian official said.

The strike in Ramallah was the first time since May 18 that Israel has used warplanes and not attack helicopters to strike Palestinian targets. Three planes struck the West Bank after a Palestinian attack that left nine dead and around 60 injured.

Meanwhile, residents in Bethlehem reported seeing Israeli Apache helicopters over that West Bank town, south of Jerusalem.

Witnesses in Jenin, in the northern West Bank, said they had seen heavy movement of Israeli forces, including tanks and armored troop carriers, on the edge of town.

The wave of retaliatory strikes came just hours after a Palestinian suicide bombing left up to 18 people dead and 88 wounded in a busy pizzeria in the center of west Jerusalem, the Israeli side of the disputed city. *AFP*

Suharto's fugitive son to surrender

JAKARTA—Tommy Suharto, the fugitive son of Indonesia's former dictator, has offered to surrender to face questioning over the murder of a senior judge and other alleged crimes, the Jakarta police chief said yesterday.

Sofyan Yacub said he was confident Tommy would hand himself in based on a letter to police from his eldest sister Tutut, received Thursday afternoon.

"Mrs. Tutut said Tommy called her at 7 a.m. last Tuesday and said he would surrender and he requested a guarantee of security from me," Yacub told reporters.

"So Tutut wrote to me asking for protection and said the family would hand Tommy over as soon as he comes to the family."

Yacub said he was optimistic that Tommy would surrender and would be brought to police headquarters by his family, adding that he would "fully guarantee" his security.

Police have launched an intensive manhunt for Tommy after accusing him Monday of ordering the July 26 killing of Syaifuddin Kartasasmita, the Supreme Court judge who sentenced him to 18 months' jail last year for a land scam.

They say two suspects claim to have shot Kartasasmita on Tommy's orders and received $10,000 in payment from the former millionaire playboy, who has been in hiding for nine months to avoid going to jail.

Police have also linked Tommy to a series of bombings in Jakarta in recent months, after discovering a cache of arms and explosives in separate raids last Saturday and Monday in an apartment and house he allegedly used.

Police have summoned Tutut, another sister Titiek, and Tommy's wife Tata for questioning to see if they know anything about the judge's murder. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

South Asia meet proposed

COLOMBO—Top foreign ministry officials from seven South Asian nations neared agreement Thursday on a December summit of their leaders, as the region's two main players—India and Pakistan-were set to meet Friday for crucial bilateral talks. "There is a broad agreement that heads of states and heads of government should meet in Nepal in late December," Pakistan Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq said after attending a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Meetings of the seven-member regional group, known as SAARC, had been postponed for the past two years because of animosity between India and Pakistan, which fought a mini-war over the disputed province of Kashmir in May and June, 1999. *AP*

Fighting in Macedonia

SKOPJE—Sporadic clashes between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Macedonian troops near the flashpoint town of Tetovo left eight civilians injured Thursday and threatened a Western-mediated peace agreement scheduled to be signed next week. Defense Minister Vlado Buckovski appealed to the nation to put bitterness aside and back the peace deal with the country's ethnic Albanian minority, despite Wednesday's rebel killing of 10 Macedonian soldiers in an ambush of an Army convoy. "Let us give peace a chance. May this major tragedy mark the end of the war and not the beginning of a bloody civil war," Buckovski told a news conference after rioters attacked ethnic Albanian shops in retaliation for the rebel killings. *AFP*

Owners of dailies grilled

SEOUL—Owners of South Korea's top two dailies yesterday submitted themselves to questioning by prosecutors on alleged tax evasion amid accusations that the investigation is designed to tame the media. President Bang Sang-hoon of the Chosun, the top-selling newspaper in South Korea boasting a two million daily circulation, and Kim Byung-kwan, who recently resigned as honorary chair of the Dong-A, were quizzed. Prosecutors accuse Bang and Kim of avoiding millions of dollars in taxes and diverting company funds by fiddling with official documents and using the accounts of their acquaintances and subordinates. Both newspapers have flatly denied the allegations and say they will dispute the charges in court. *AFP*

Textbook writers attacked

TOKYO—A suspected left-wing radical group claimed responsibility yesterday for an arson attack on the office of the authors of a Japanese history textbook accused of glossing over wartime atrocities. The group, which calls itself a "revolutionary army," sent a letter to news organizations declaring that the attack was a "revolutionary reprisal" for the adoption of the book for special-needs schools. "We must absolutely block the movement to adopt the textbook," the letter said, according to press reports. *AFP*

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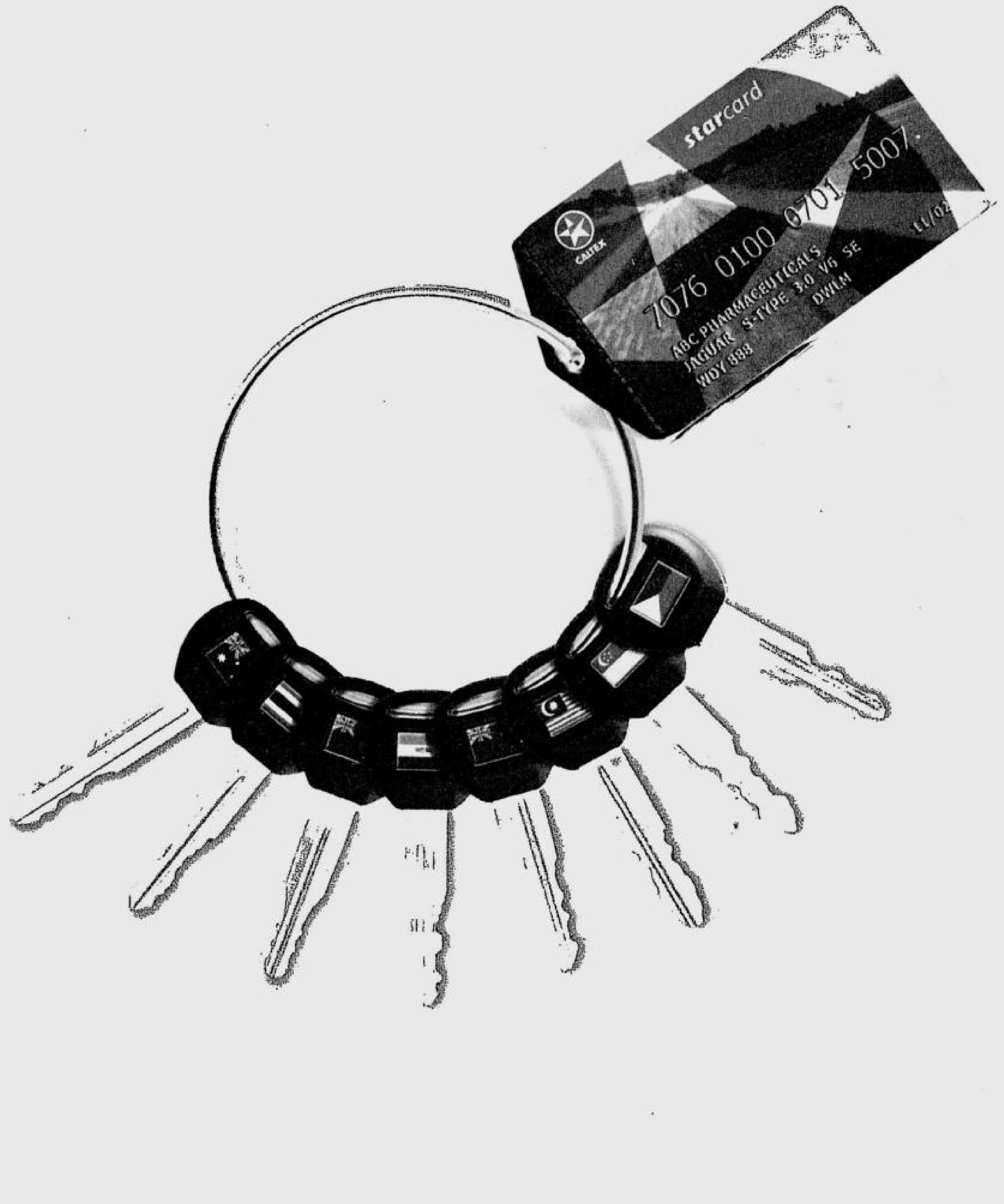

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Pinatubo canal hasty, says expert

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Geologist Kelvin Rodolfo regarded as hasty the plan of government volcanologists and engineers to build a canal to drain water out of the Mt. Pinatubo crater.

He also expressed worry how the canal would safely prevent floods and lahar flows from reaching 12 villages in Botolan, Zambales, this rainy season.

"I am afraid it's very precipitate. It happened very suddenly," Rodolfo said of the plan of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The DPWH and the Phivolcs announced the plan to the INQUIRER on Wednesday or on the same day Zambales officials agreed to the construction of a canal at the Maraunot notch, the crater's lowest rim and where at least 210 million cubic meters of water were expected to burst out.

Rodolfo reacted with surprise to the plan, noting that it came after Dr. Raymundo Punungbayan, Phivolcs director, rebuffed the findings of Rodolfo's team on the certainty of a lake breakout or overflow within the year.

The alert on the crater's problem has renewed public concern for the safety of some 40,000 residents, mostly Aetas, on the volcano's upper flanks.

The DPWH knew about the impending disaster but was silent about it since December last year when the Japanese firm Nippon Koei concluded its study on the potential of breaching, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

Rodolfo said he could not imagine how an impulsive plan could assure the complete safety of the residents.

He reserved comments on the appropriateness or soundness of the engineering intervention, saying the DPWH or the Phivolcs has yet to share a copy of the plan with his team that he said has also a stake on the problem.

He said, however, there is no real guarantee of safety for residents even when the DPWH and Phivolcs control the release of water because rains have been regular around the Bucao Watershed.

Rodolfo's team, which had spent three years monitoring lahar from Malumboy near Maraunot, said rains lasting three days around the Bucao Watershed are enough to cause water to rise by a meter.

Rodolfo said evacuating residents offered no full guarantee unless authorities reduce the health risks in cramped centers.

Public Works Assistant Secretary Florante Soriquez admitted that the construction of the canal was not in their original proposals.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the agency had planned these options: Scraping of loose materials at the overflow point, siphoning water, diking the crater with rocks enclosed in mesh, and constructing a drainage tunnel. Soriquez did not cite reasons why the DPWH had not done any of these original proposals six months after the Nippon Koei had warned of real danger. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 1-2000A

July 31, 2001

TO : **All heads of Departments/Agencies/State Universities and Colleges and Other Offices of the National Government; Heads of Accounting Units; COA Auditors; and All Others Concerned**

SUBJECT : **Amendments to Joint Circular No. 1-2000 dated January 3, 2000 Re: Guidelines in the Remittance of All Taxes Withheld by National Government Agencies (NGAs) to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)**

— — — —

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 Joint Circular No. 1-2000 dated January 3, 2000 is hereby amended to improve, facilitate and institute appropriate controls in the remittance of all taxes withheld by NGAs.

2.0 GENERAL GUIDELINES

2.1 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall stop/discontinue the issuance of Tax Remittance Advices (TRAs) to NGAs upon approval and effectivity of this Circular. In lieu thereof, DBM shall authorize NGAs to remit all taxes withheld to the BIR.

2.2 All NGAs shall use a revised TRA form (Annex "A") in the remittance of all taxes withheld. These TRA forms shall be printed and distributed by the BIR.

2.3 All TRAs filed with the BIR by NGAs shall be supported by a properly accomplished Withholding Tax Returns (WTRs). The BIR shall immediately transmit the original copy of the TRA to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr).

2.4 The BIR's copy of the TRA duly stamped "RECEIVED" by te BTr shall be the basis of the BIR in recording the remittance of tax collection.

2.5 All NGAs shall include the TRAs filed with the BIR in the Summary List of Checks Issued and Cancelled (SLCIC).

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The DBM shall:

3.1.1 Authorize NGAs to remit all taxes withheld to BIR through TRA Said disbursement authority shall be indicated in the Advice of Notice of Cash Allocation Issued; and

3.1.2 Require NGAs to include the TRAs filed with the BIR in the SLCIC.

3.2 The BIR-NO shall:

3.2.1 Print the TRA blank forms;

3.2.2 Provide BTr Central Office with the listing of serial numbers of all TRAs printed; and

3.2.3 Provide the Offices concerned with a listing of BTr-Regional Offices (BTr-RO) where the BIR-RDOs shall submit the original copy of the TRA (Annex "C").

3.3 The BIR Office Concerned Shall:

3.3.1 Inform in writing the BTr-RO about the serial numbers of the blank TRA forms issued to NGAs within their jurisdiction;

3.3.2 Receive the TRAs filed by NGAs supported by WTRs;

3.3.3 Submit the Original copy of TRA to the BTr-RO;

3.3.4 Record the amount of taxes reflected in the TRA as tax collection in the JOURNAL OF TAX REMITTANCE BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES based on the BIR copies of TRAs which are duly stamped "RECEIVED" by the BTr-RO; and

3.3.5 Record the collection in accordance with the illustrative accounting entries in Section 5.2 of Annex "D" of JC 1-2000.

3.4 The BTr shall:

3.4.1 Receive the original copy of TRAs from BIR offices concerned, stamp the duplicate copies with the date and time of receipt and initial the said documents;

3.4.2 Record the deposits in the JOURNAL OF TAX DEPOSIT BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES as deposit on a daily basis, upon receipt of TRA from the BIR; and

3.4.3 Record the deposits in accordance with the illustrative accounting entries in Section 5.3 of Annex "D" of JC 1-2000.

3.5 The NGAs shall:

3.5.1 Requisition blank TRA forms from BIR office having jurisdiction over them. Subsequent requisitions shall be made only upon submission of the Report on Tax Remittance Advice Used/Cancelled/Lost, using the attached format (Annex "B");

3.5.2 Prepare TRA to over remittance of taxes supported by applicable WTRs to wit:

BIR Form	Type of Taxes
• 1601-C	Compensation
• 1601-F	Final
• 1601-E	Expanded
• 1600	Valued Added and Percentage Tax
• 1603	Fringe Benefit Tax

3.5.3 File the WTR with the corresponding TRA to the BIR-RDO concerned on or before the tenth (10th) day of the following month after the said taxes were withheld.

3.5.4 Record the remittance in accordance with the illustrative accounting entries in Section 5.1 of Annex "D" of JC 1-2000; and

3.5.5 Include the TRAs issued in the SLCIC to be submitted to DBM on or before the tenth (10th) day of the following month covered by the report.

4.0 REPEALING CLAUSE

All provisions of Joint Circular No. 1-2000 dated January 3, 2000 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

5.0 EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation or official gazette.

6.0 TRANSITORY PROVISION

All requests made by the NGAs to DBM for the issuance of TRAs pursuant to Joint Circular No. 1-2000, shall no longer be received and processed by the DBM after the effectivity of this Amendatory Joint Circular. Thus, TRAs already in the following possession of DBM upon the effectivity of the circular shall still be processed the provisions of Joint Circular No. 1-2000 dated January 3, 2000.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

ANNEX "A"

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TAX REMITTANCE ADVICE

Serial No. ____________

NAME OF AGENCY:	AGENCY CODE	DEPT. CODE	RDO NO.	FUND CODE	DATE

ADDRESS:

THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE:

This is to remit the amount of ______________________________
(P ____________________) to cover withholding tax liabilities for the month of ____________.

Type of Tax: (Please mark one box only)

☐ 1601-C (Compensation) ☐ 1601-E (Expanded) ☐ 1601-F (Final)
☐ 1600 (VAT & Percentage) ☐ 1603 (Fringe Benefit Tax)

It is understood that the amount herein remitted shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code and its implementing rules and regulations and consistent with the prescribed budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations pursuant to the DOF-DBM-COA Joint Circular No. 1-2000 as amended by JOINT CIRCULAR 1-2000A.

APPROVED BY: CERTIFIED BY:

____________________ ____________________
Head of Agency or Duly Authorized Representative   Chief Accountant

BIR-RDO	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	BTr-RO	DATE: (MM/DD/YYYY)	BIR-RO FINANCE DIVISION	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Stamp of Receiving Office	________ ________ Initial	*Stamp of Receiving Office*	________ ________ Initial	*Stamp of Receiving Office*	________ ________ Initial

ANNEX "B"

REPORT ON TAX REMITTANCE ADVICE USED/CANCELLED/ LOST

For : The Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Sir:

In support to the attached Requisition and Issue Voucher, please be informed of the following:

SERIAL NOS. OF TRAs ISSUED BY BIR	CHECK APPLICABLE COLUMN			AMOUNT
	USED	CANCELLED	LOST, ETC.	
1.				P
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.				
TOTAL:				P

SUBMITTED BY:

____
Signature of Head of Office or Authorized Representative

____
Name of Agency

Agency Code:

ANNEX "C"

LIST OF BIR-BTr OFFICES

RDO NO.	BIR OFFICE	WHERE TO FILE ORIGINAL TRA BTr REGIONAL OFFICE
RR 1	**CALASIAO, PANGASINAN**	
01	LAOAG CITY	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
02	VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
03	SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
04	CALASIAO, WEST PANGASINAN	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
05	ALAMINOS, WEST PANGASINAN	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
06	URDANETA, EAST PANGASINAN	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
RR 2	**BAGUIO CITY**	
07	BANGUED, ABRA	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
08	BAGUIO CITY	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
09	LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
10	BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
11	TABUK, KALINGA-APAYAO	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
12	LAGAWE, IFUGAO	REG. I - SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION
RR 3	**TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN**	
13	TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN	REG. II - TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN
14	BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA	REG. II - TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN
15	ILAGAN, ISABELA	REG. II - TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN
16	CABARROGUIS, QUIRINO	REG. II - TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN
RR 4	**SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA**	
17	TARLAC, TARLAC	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
18	OLONGAPO CITY	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
19	SBFZ	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
20	BALANGA, BATAAN	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
21	SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
22	BALER, AURORA	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
23	CABANATUAN CITY	REG. III - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
RR 5	**VALENZUELA**	
24	VALENZUELA	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
25	PLARIDEL, BULACAN	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
26	MALABON-NAVOTAS	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
27	CALOOCAN CITY	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
RR 6	**MANILA**	
29	SAN NICOLAS - TONDO	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
30	BINONDO	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
31	STA. CRUZ	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
32	QUIAPO-SAMPALOC-SAN MIGUEL	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
33	INTRAMUROS-ERMITA-MALATE	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
34	PACO-PANDACAN-STA. ANA	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
35	ROMBLON	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
36	PUERTO PRINSESA	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
37	SAN JOSE, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
RR 7	**QUEZON CITY**	
28	NOVALICHES	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
38	NORTH QUEZON CITY	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
39	SOUTH QUEZON CITY	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
40	CUBAO	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
41	MANDALUYONG	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
42	SAN JUAN	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
43	PASIG	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
45	MARIKINA	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
46	CAINTA – TAYTAY	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
RR 8	**MAKATI**	
44	TAGUIG – PATEROS	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
47	EAST MAKATI	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
48	WEST MAKATI	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
49	NORTH MAKATI	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
50	SOUTH MAKATI	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
51	PASAY CITY	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
52	PARANAQUE	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
53	LAS PINAS – MUNTINLUPA	NCR - INTRAMUROS, MANILA
RR 9	**SAN PABLO CITY**	
54	TRECE MARTIREZ CITY	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
55	SAN PABLO CITY	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
56	CALAMBA, LAGUNA	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
57	SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
58	BATANGAS CITY	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
59	LIPA CITY	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
60	TAYABAS, QUEZON	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
61	GUMACA, QUEZON	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
62	BOAC, MARINDUQUE	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
63	CALAPAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	REG. IV - BATANGAS CITY
RR 10	**LEGASPI CITY**	
64	DAET, CAMARINES NORTE	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
65	NAGA CITY	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
66	IRIGA CITY	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
67	LEGASPI CITY	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
68	SORSOGON, SORSOGON	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
69	VIRAC, CATANDUANES	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
70	MASBATE, MASBATE	REG. V - LEGASPI CITY
RR 11	**ILOILO CITY**	
71	KALIBO, AKLAN	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
72	ROXAS CITY	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
73	SAN JOSE, ANTIQUE	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
74	ILOILO CITY, GUIMARAS	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
75	ZARRAGA, ILOILO	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
RR 12	**BACOLOD CITY**	
76	VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
77	BACOLOD CITY	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
78	BINALBAGAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
79	DUMAGUETE CITY	REG. VI - ILOILO CITY
RR 13	**CEBU CITY**	
80	MANDAUE CITY	REG. VII - CEBU CITY
81	CEBU CITY-NORTH	REG. VII - CEBU CITY
82	CEBU CITY-SOUTH	REG. VII - CEBU CITY
83	TALISAY, CEBU	REG. VII - CEBU CITY
84	TAGBILARAN CITY	REG. VII - CEBU CITY
RR 14	**TACLOBAN CITY**	
85	CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
86	BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
87	CATBALOGAN, WESTER SAMAR	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
88	TACLOBAN CITY	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
89	ORMOC CITY	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
90	MAASIN, SOUTHERN LEYTE	REG. VIII - TACLOBAN CITY
RR 15	**ZAMBOANGA CITY**	
91	DIPOLOG CITY	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
92	PAGADIAN CITY	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
93	ZAMBOANGA CITY	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
94	ISABELA, BASILAN	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
95	JOLO, SULU	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
96	BONGAO, TAWI-TAWI	REG. IX - ZAMBOANGA CITY
RR 16	**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**	
97	GINGOOG CITY	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
98	CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
99	MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
100	OZAMIS CITY	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
101	ILIGAN CITY	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
102	MARAWI CITY	REG. X - CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
RR 17	**BUTUAN CITY**	
103	BUTUAN CITY	CARAGA - BUTUAN CITY
104	BAYUGAN, AGUSAN DEL SUR	CARAGA - BUTUAN CITY
105	SURIGAO CITY	CARAGA - BUTUAN CITY
106	TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR	CARAGA - BUTUAN CITY
RR 18	**COTABATO CITY**	
107	COTABATO CITY	REG. XII - COTABATO CITY
108	KIDAPAWAN, NORTH COTABATO	REG. XII - COTABATO CITY
109	TACURONG, SULTAN KUDARAT	REG. XII - COTABATO CITY
110	GENERAL SANTOS CITY	REG. XII - COTABATO CITY
111	KORONADAL, SOUTH COTABATO	REG. XII - COTABATO CITY
RR 19	**DAVAO CITY**	
112	TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE	REG. XI - DAVAO CITY
113	DAVAO CITY	REG. XI - DAVAO CITY
114	MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL	REG. XI - DAVAO CITY
115	DIGOS, DAVAO DEL SUR	REG. XI - DAVAO CITY

August 11, 2001 – Inquirer

Dengue worse this year, says DOH

DAVAO CITY—Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit on Thursday said the dengue death toll has gone up to 70 nationwide.

The Department of Health has also monitored 8,000 dengue cases nationwide from January to July this year, he said.

"It is higher compared to last year but not as bad as 1998," Dayrit told reporters at the Marco Polo Hotel here.

The highest number of dengue cases the health department recorded was in 1998, tallying 35,000 cases.

"Two percent of those (35,000 cases) resulted in death," he said.

He said the number is expected to rise in the next two months.

"August and September are rainy months. After that, the rains will stop, it (the number of cases) will decline," he said.

Dayrit said his department "is spending P20,000 to P25,000 per case."

"Dengue (occurs) the whole year round. It is all over. If they died of dengue they probably didn't have the appropriate health care. Normally the expected death due to dengue is one percent," he said.

He, however, said persons who died of dengue were basically those "who were not treated well in the hospital or those who were not hospitalized."

"We need more community mobilization and environmental precaution because there is no vaccine for dengue," he said.

Reports of dengue cases continue to rise in the provinces.

Cotabato, Maguindanao

Health workers declared as alarming the number of dengue cases in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Razon Bagaoisan, health and sanitation officer of the North Cotabato provincial health office, yesterday said health workers have recorded 390 dengue cases in the province since January this year.

Compared to last year, the disease has increased by 286 percent, Bagaoisan said.

The Integrated Provincial Health Office recorded only more than 100 patients during the first six months, but as of Aug. 6, the number rose to 390 cases.

Kidapawan City has the biggest number of reported dengue cases.

In Maguindanao, Dr. Tahir Sulaik, provincial health chief, reported that since January, more than 500 cases of dengue have been monitored in the province's 21 towns. Three of the patients have died.

Sulaik identified Parang, Sultan Kudarat and Datu Odin Sinsuat as high-risk areas.

In Cotabato City, the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center reported more than 500 dengue cases since Jan. 1.

Three children died.

Nine villages in Cotabato City are considered high risk areas where the number of reported dengue cases has reached more than 10, city health chief Dr. Abdulla Dumama said.

Fogging operations to destroy breeding places of mosquitoes have been ongoing since June in the city.

In Cagayan de Oro City, about 120 children have been hospitalized at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center due to dengue since last month.

Dr. Pilar Antillon said 25 percent of the children suffered dengue shock or bleeding.

"This year's (number of) dengue victims are higher than last year's. But the victims are lucky because early detection of dengue has saved their lives."

The youngest of the dengue patients was a two-month-old baby.

Most of the victims live in Barangays Lapasan and Macabalan here.

"These children live near places that are swampy. I only hope the maintenance of cleanliness in the surroundings would be kept regardless of the season," Antillon said.

Fears of outbreak

In Sorsogon City, Dr. Ingrid Magnata, Provincial Health Office technical services chief, has raised the alert over the increasing number of persons affected with dengue.

She expressed fears of an impending outbreak that may be similar to that in 1998.

Compared to the same period last year, Magnata admitted that the 109 percent increase in cases is considered an outbreak.

Considered dengue "hot spots" were Sorsogon City, 17 cases; Pilar, 9 and Matnog, 11.

Also affected were Barcelona, Bulan, Bulusan, Casiguran, Gubat and Juban.

Maita Mortega, provincial coordinator for the Dengue Prevention and Control Program, said two fatalities were recorded in Bulan and Casiguran.

Ifugao

In Lagawe, Ifugao, health officials reported 181 dengue fever cases in the province from January to June this year but said the figure was lower than the 225 cases recorded in the same period last year.

No death from dengue was recorded in the province this year, reports said.

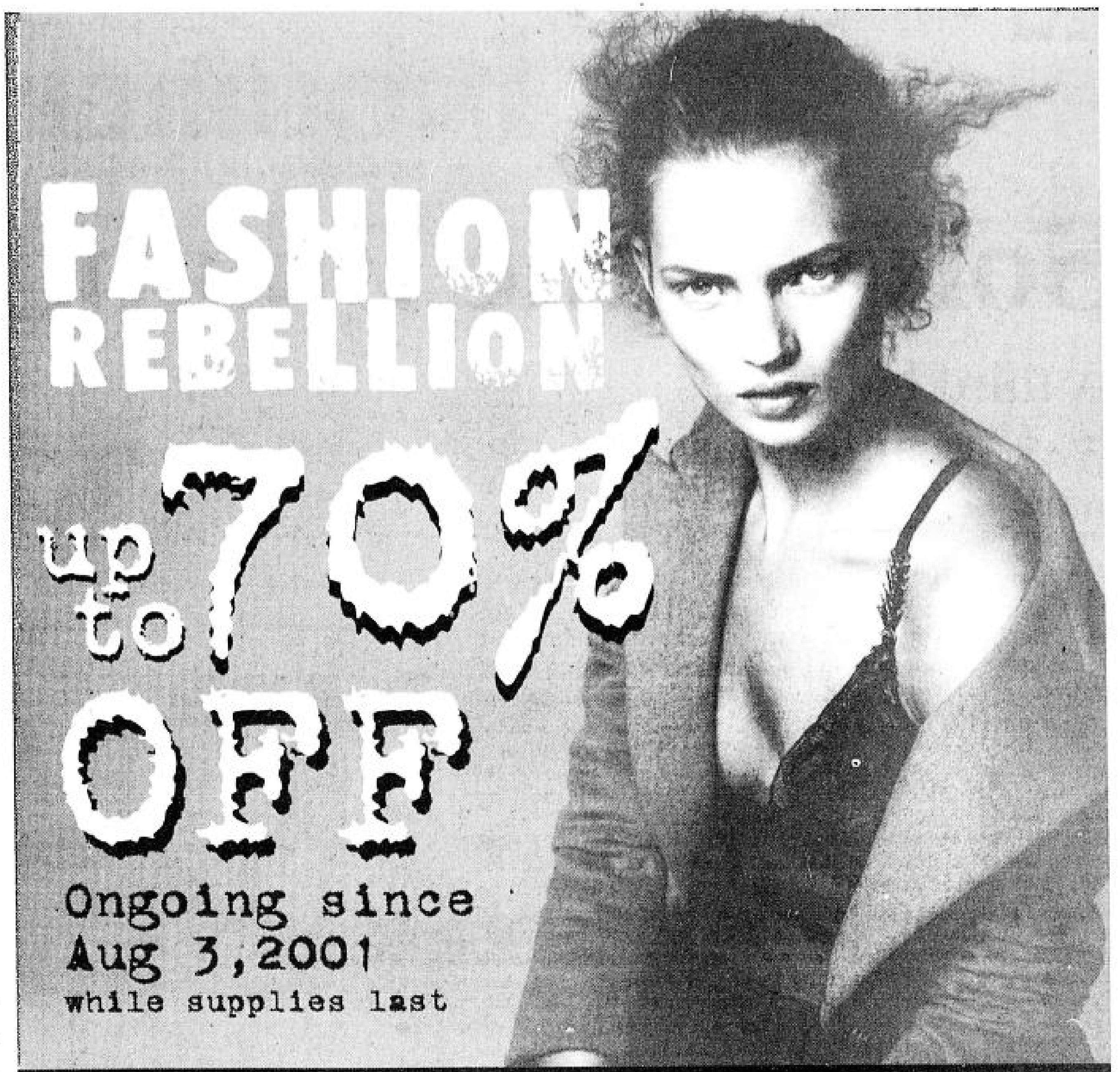
Officials of the provincial epidemiology and surveillance unit said the increased awareness of residents on dengue fever has helped lessen the number of cases in Ifugao this year.

The Ifugao Provincial Hospital admitted 63 dengue fever cases, most of the victims were children and male in Lagawe, Banaue, Mayoyao, Aguinaldo and Tinoc.

Health officials said extreme weather disturbances are capable of destroying potential breeding sites of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the dengue virus carrier, and temporarily disrupting its life cycle.

Johannah Dumangeng, an epidemiology nurse at the provincial hospital, said referrals to other hospitals were lower this year because the IPH can manage the dengue cases in the province.

However, not all dengue cases here were acquired in Ifugao. Reports showed residents contracted the disease when they travel outside the province. ***Joselle Badilla, Edwin Fernandez, Rosa-May de Guzman and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Jessebel Lacbawan, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1173 Series of 2001

NGOs link up to fight child labor in fishing

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provinces of Negros Oriental and Palawan have entered into an agreement to strengthen efforts to eliminate child labor in the fishing industry.

The agreement was signed during a workshop in Puerto Princesa City last week held by the Project Advisory Committee of the International Labor Organization in the Elimination of Child Labor (PAC-ILO-IPEC) in Negros Oriental and the Pinag-isang Lakas Alay sa Kabataan (Piglas) in Palawan.

The provincial governments of Negros Oriental and Palawan have declared support for the agreement and the efforts of these two non-government organizations to stop child labor in the fishing industry.

Aside from identifying areas for strong collaboration in the withdrawal of minors involved in deep sea fishing, the two groups recognized strategies to address existing problems on child labor, said Jennifer Catan-Tilos, PAC-ILO-IPEC member.

These strategies are to regularly update and exchange information and provide common alternative livelihoods to victims, to establish a quick and responsive monitoring system and to create a joint task force to hasten the prosecution of cases against fishing operators who employ children in deep sea fishing.

Negros Oriental is one of the main sources of child laborers for deep sea fishing operations, which go to the China Sea.

A study made by the ILO revealed that most of the minors recruited for these deep-sea fishing operations are from the mountains and don't even know how to swim.

"Some of them (minors) were lucky enough to learn how to swim in the river but for the rest, it was on-the-job training," said an ILO field worker in an earlier press conference.

There have also been incidents where fishermen from Negros Oriental can no longer stand the working conditions in the deep-sea fishing industry and have asked the Palawan provincial government for help in sending them back home to Negros.

In February, 35 fishermen, 10 of them minors, from Negros Oriental escaped from their fishing vessel in Palawan because they could no longer endure the inhuman treatment imposed on them by the skipper.

The victims could not identify the skipper, the groups said.

They had claimed that they were made to dive into the sea as early as 4 a.m. and eat their breakfast four hours later.

Sometimes, the fishermen complained, they were beaten or hit with a paddle by vessel officials even if they were sick.

The recruitment of minors is also made possible because of the *palusot* system, where illegal recruiters fake children's birth certificates.

In other instances, the parents of the minors themselves plead with the fishing company to take their sons. Boat operators said this could sometimes be hard to resist.

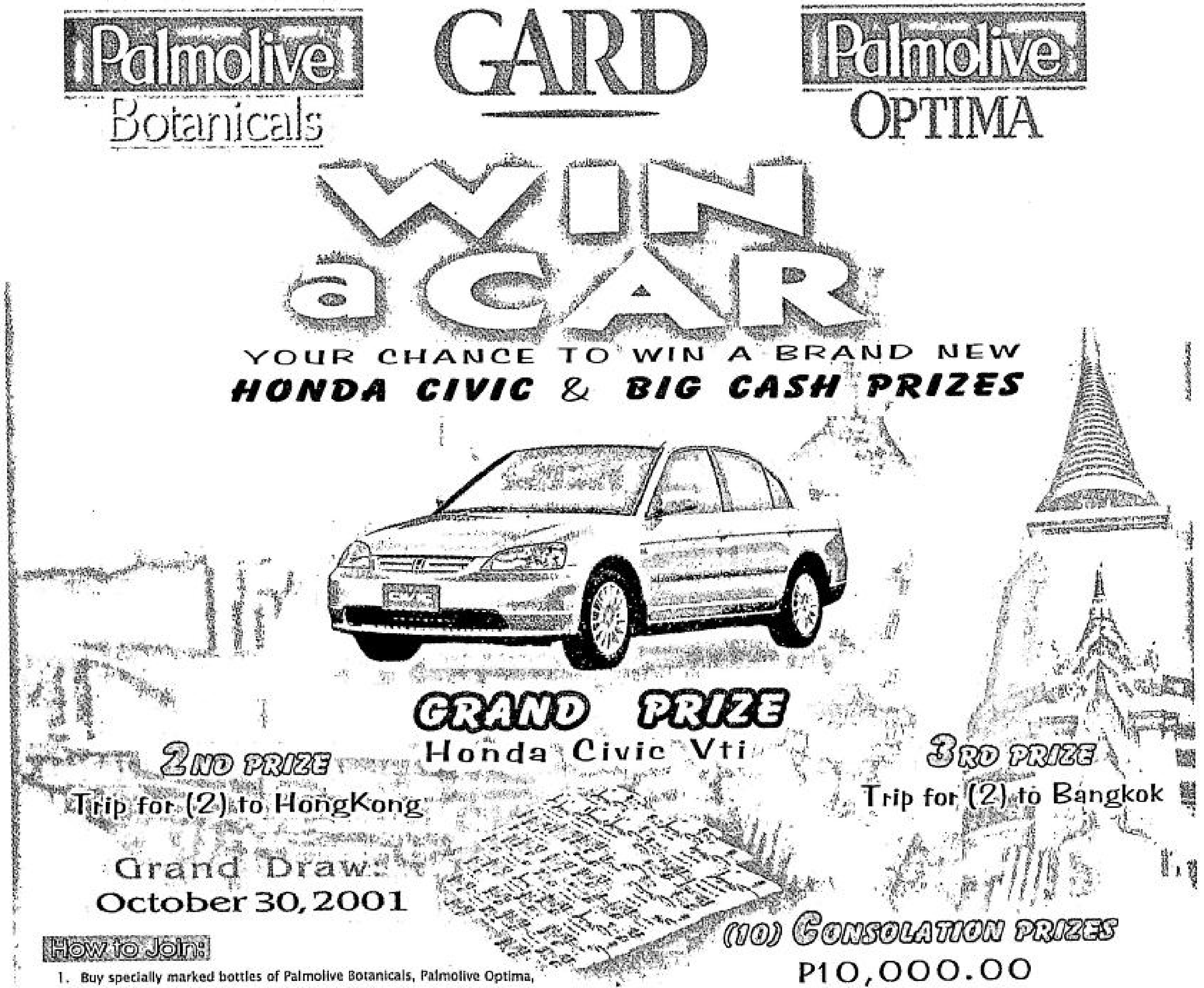
The *pa-aling* fishing operations, which serve as a "training ground" for fishermen before they join a bigger operation like the *muro-ami*, supplies all the fishing needs of Negros Oriental.

Muro-ami is an illegal fishing method because the fishermen use stone weights to pound on coral reefs and seabed to scare fish and drive them to waiting nets.

Pa-aling, however, is a legal variation of *muro-ami*. Bubbles blown from air compressors are used to frighten the fish and force them to swim to nets.

CANADIAN VISITORS PHOTO FROM PAF

The Philippine Air Force recently hosted Canadian delegates to the yearly International Air Cadet Exchange. The Canadians, Capt. Joseph Nearing (extreme left) and Lt. J.L. de Haas (2nd from right) toured various PAF and military bases in the country.



How to Join:

1. Buy specially marked bottles of Palmolive Botanicals, Palmolive Optima, or Gard shampoo.
2. Write your personal information on a sheet of paper.
3. Enclose specially marked cap together with the sheet of paper containing your personal information and drop in designated drop boxes or send in to CP office in Makati.

Detailed Mechanics:

1. Purchase any size bottle of Palmolive Botanicals, Palmolive Optima, or Gard shampoo with special "Win-A-Car" sticker on cap.
2. Write your name, address, signature, telephone number (if applicable), and name of store where you bought the product on a sheet of paper.
3. Enclose the cap with "Win-A-Car" sticker along with the sheet of paper containing your personal information in a sealed envelope. Only one cap per envelope please.
4. Drop entries at designated drop boxes in selected groceries and supermarkets in GMA and Luzon. If there are no drop boxes located in your favorite supermarket, you may also send or mail in your entries to:

"Win-A-Car Promo"
CP Marketing
Colgate-Palmolive Phils., Inc.
1049 J.P. Rizal Avenue, Makati City

* all entries from Visayas and Mindanao should be mailed to the above address.

5. The winners will be drawn on October 30, 2001. Deadline for submission and receipt of all mailed entries is on October 15, 2001.
6. A consumer may win only once in the raffle. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she wins the prize with the higher value.
7. Winners will be notified by phone and via registered mail by CPPI. They may claim their prizes on or after November 15, 2001.
8. When claiming prizes, winners will be required to present the registered mail sent by CPPI as well as any 2 of the following IDs: passport, driver's license, company/school ID.
9. All winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from end of the promo period. Unclaimed prizes after the prescribed period shall be forfeited in favor of CPPI with prior approval of BFAD.
10. Taxes for all prizes are to be shouldered by the winners. All prizes are non-transferable, but convertible to cash.
11. Grand Prize of Honda Civic VTI is worth P717,000.00:
    1.6 Vti 5 - Speed Manual Transmission
    Color is subject to availability
    Includes standard free items
12. Second prize is a trip for two (inclusive only of airfare, accommodation, and travel tax) to Hongkong. This is non-transferable and convertible to cash. Equivalent cash value will be determined based on prevailing travel package rates at the time of the draw. All travel visa requirements are to be shouldered by the winner.
13. Third prize is a trip for two (inclusive only of airfare, accommodation, and travel tax) to Bangkok. This is non-transferable and convertible to cash. Equivalent cash value will be determined based on prevailing travel package rates at the time of the draw. All travel visa requirements are to be shouldered by the winner.
14. Trade outlets where top 3 winning entries were purchased (as specified in the personal information sheet of winning entries) will also win cash prizes as follows: Grand Prize - P200,000, 2nd Prize - P100,000, and 3rd Prize - P50,000).
15. Ten Consolation Prizes of P10,000 each will also be given away. Trade outlets where consolation prize entries were purchased will no longer have an equivalent cash prize.
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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Solving the Balangiga bell puzzle

A third bell paves way for info sharing

By Rolando Borrinaga
Tacloban City

PROTAGONISTS on both sides of the Pacific, who had taken strong adversarial positions on the Balangiga bells issue, set aside their differences late last month and opened lines of communication and cooperation.

Since then, they have shared valuable data and information that appeared to have finally unraveled the puzzle of the three bells of Balangiga.

For years, the Balangiga Massacre on Samar Island on Sept. 28, 1901, which marks its centennial a few weeks from now, was associated with two famous "Bells of Balangiga" displayed at the Trophy Park of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The return of these relics to the Philippines remains the last issue of contention between the US and Philippine governments related to the Philippine-American War.

The Associated Press reported in December 1997 the presence of a "third bell" of Balangiga that is with the US forces in Korea.

The new twist raised questions about the authenticity of the two bells in Wyoming and an information blackout on the bell in Korea.

The answers to the questions did not come, and the information blackout was not lifted, until very recently.

Today, it could be inferred from latest information that the two bells in Wyoming and the third bell in Korea belong to the same set of three bells taken down from the church belfry of Balangiga in late 1901.

Initial questions about the authenticity of the two bells in Wyoming were based on the premise that they are of equal sizes, as could be seen in photographs and as described by various observers. If so, they could only have belonged to two different churches, and not only to the church of Balangiga.

Dave McCracken helped settle this issue by volunteering to take actual measurements of the two bells in Wyoming last July 31. He promptly sent his findings to Jean Wall, daughter of the first American soldier to be attacked in Balangiga and US-based member of our three-person Balangiga watch group.

This document was shared with Bob Couttie in Subic and this writer in Tacloban.

McCracken is a retired US Air Force colonel and former commander of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base. He bitterly opposed any compromise settlement on the Balangiga bells in Wyoming in 1998.

Different sizes

The circa-1863 bell in Wyoming, with a mouth diameter of 31-1/4 inches and height of 30 inches turned out to be the larger of the two relics. This bell was cast in a different foundry, probably Augustinian. It is inscribed with a name, R. San Francisco.

The circa-1889 bell has a mouth diameter of 27-3/4 inches and height of 27-1/2 inches. This one has the Franciscan emblem and is the smaller of the two bells. It is inscribed with the name of Fr. Agustin Delgado in Latin (i.e., Augustin Delcado).

Qualitatively, the circa-1863 bell could be classified as large, and the circa-1889 bell could be classified as medium-sized.

A bell with the Balangiga survivors in a photograph, also with the Franciscan emblem, looks like the smallest of the three bells. The actual measurements are not yet known, but estimates based on the body-build of the boy and the soldiers around it show that this bell is probably 23 or 24 inches tall and with a mouth diameter of about 20 inches.

However, the biggest piece of the bells' puzzle was the 'third bell" in Korea. But this was also the toughest to crack.

US military authorities appeared to have imposed an information blackout on this bell, and two known attempts to inquire about it had been fruitless.

The latest, was the failed six-month effort of the Philippine Embassy in the US through its counterpart in Seoul.

A way was found through the back door.

Jean Wall dug deep into her archives. She found an old letter from someone who had knowledge of a Balangiga bell on a pedestal in the old Madison Barracks in New York, before this was dismantled and brought to the 9th Infantry home station in Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

Wall contacted this person, who in turn gave her both information and a picture of the bell in the Madison Barracks. But this bell looked different from the bell photographed with the Balangiga survivors. The survivors' bell had a domed top while the Madison Barracks bell had a flatter top, although both have the Franciscan emblem.

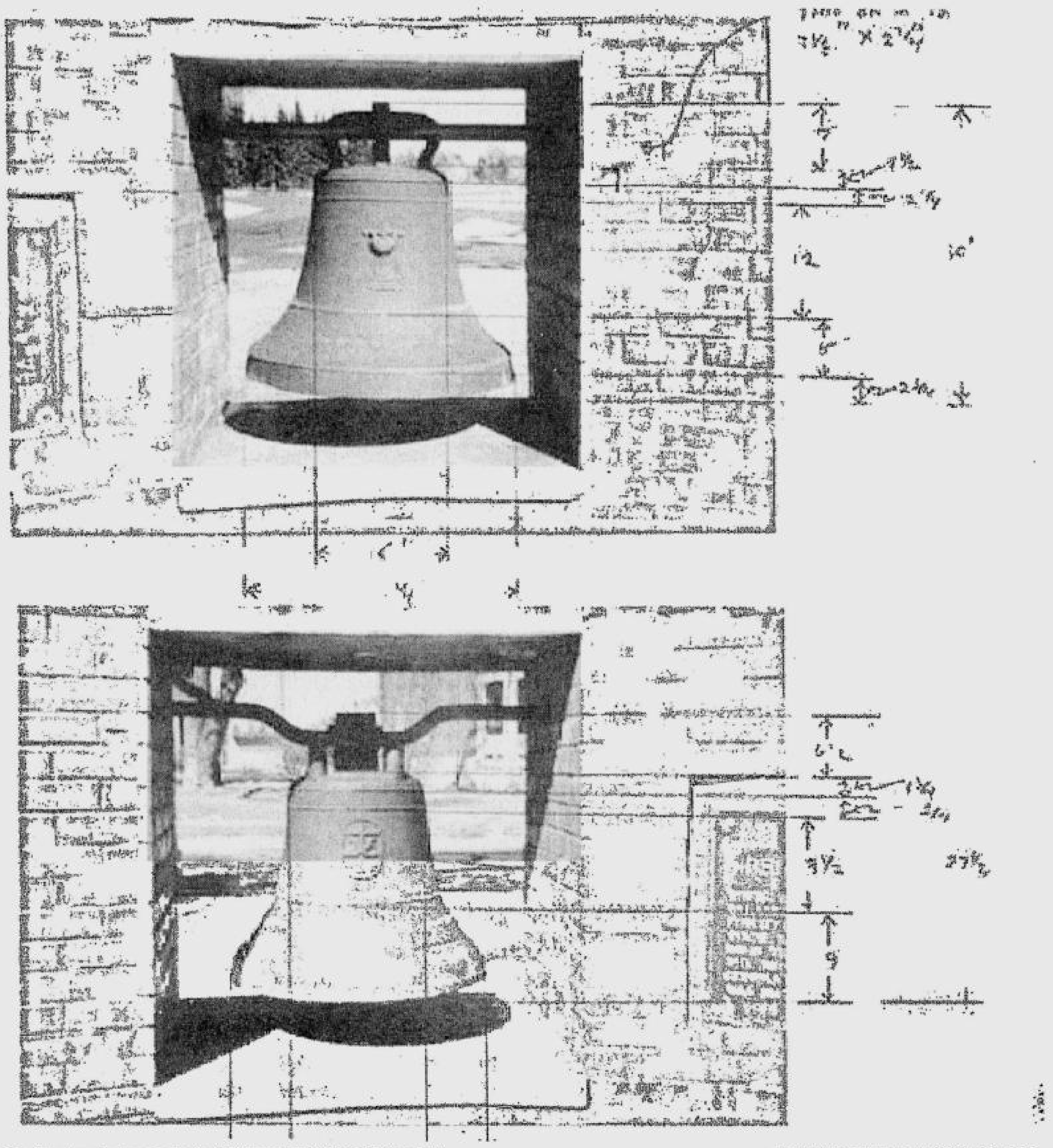
Yet, an inquiry at the museum curator of Fort Lewis in Washington, the next 9th Infantry home station after Texas, revealed that the Balangiga bell from Madison Barracks in Texas was brought here. This relic is now in Korea and has traveled with the regiment wherever it went around the world.

The option left was to risk a call to Korea.

Blackout lifted

With a referral from the museum curator at Fort Lewis, Jean Wall contacted by phone the curator of the 9th Infantry Regiment Museum in Camp Red Cloud in Korea. This person confirmed the presence of the Balangiga bell in their museum. He sounded very cooperative after learning that the caller is the daughter of a Balangiga survivor.

Wall offered a swap—documents about the Balangiga Massacre and related materials for the museum library in exchange for pictures of the bell in Korea. She did her part even before the promised pictures reached her.



PICTURES of the two Balangiga bells in Wyoming with measurements.

COURTESY OF DAVE MCCRACKEN, WYOMING

What followed were days full of suspense, during which it was feared that some ranking officers of the 9th Infantry would still invoke the information blackout on their bell.

Surprisingly, on July 30, Wall received her requested information and digital photos of the bell in Korea. She was told that the Balangiga bell is permanently displayed in the museum, on a raised platform with a rope barrier to keep hands off.

The digital photos shared with the two other watch group members showed clearer details, such as the name of a Father Bernardo and the year 1895. A search through available documents by this writer showed the full name of the priest as Fr. Bernardo Aparecio.

A blown-up photo of the survivors' bell also has the name of Father Bernardo.

This bell looked very similar to the one in Korea, except for its domed top.

Bob Couttie, the British in our watch group, solved the remaining doubt through a computer imaging of the two bell pictures with the help of Australian photojournalist Kevin Hamdorf at Hamdorf's workshop in Subic.

Analysis showed that the "dome" on top of the survivors' bell was in fact just a pile of cord. It was then concluded that the survivors' bell and the bell in Korea are one and the same.

This finding was arrived at almost simultaneously with the receipt of McCracken's measurements of the two bells in Wyoming.

The bells story

With sufficient outside information already in, the story of the possible origins of each of the three bells of Balangiga could now be told.

After Balangiga became a separate parish on Sept. 27, 1859, the town probably took four years to raise funds to acquire its first church bell.

This might have been the large, circa-1863 bell now in Wyoming. R. San Francisco, the name inscribed on the bell, was probably the parish priest at that time.

The town probably acquired its second bell, a medium-sized one, in 1889, through the initiative of Fr. Agustin Delgado, whose name is inscribed on the bell.

Delgado was the assistant parish priest of Bassey town from 1882 to 1885, and of Guiuan town from 1885 to 1888. He later became parish priest of Guiuan from 1898 to 1903.

Balangiga probably acquired its third and smallest bell in 1895, through the initiative of Fr. Bernardo Aparecio.

Prior to his Balangiga assignment, Father Aparecio was parish priest of nearby Quinapundan town from 1888 to 1895.

The 1895 bell, the relic photographed with the Balangiga survivors and the one now in Korea, turned out to be the most historic of the three. This was presumably the lone bell that was rung to signal the attack on Company C, 9th US Infantry Regiment, in Balangiga on Sept. 28, 1901.

Return a bell

Jean Wall got involved in the Balangiga debate a few years ago when she sought official recognition for her father, Pvt. Adolph Gamlin, now considered the greater American hero in Balangiga.

She has since found that her goal is tightly linked with a just and fair resolution of the bells' issue.

A few weeks ago, when the identity of the Balangiga bells was still being sorted out, Wall wrote an emotional e-mail to Dave McCracken in Wyoming.

She said, "... (I)f there are three bells of Balangiga, one of these bells should be returned, to ring out in all its glory on Sept. 28th, for all men, of all races, for all past conflicts, and for those who have fought and died for their beliefs and their country, lest the world and all generations to follow forget their forefathers and what they gave up to protect the freedom of those to follow."

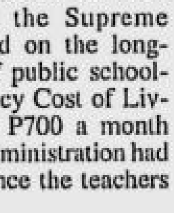
In the same light, the temporary wooden marker for the new belfry of Balangiga, inaugurated on Sept. 28, 1998, nourished the following hope:

"Let freedom ring once more from those bells, from the Belfry of Balangiga where they originally belong, to punctuate America's generosity of spirit, and the gallantry of our forebears, and complete the healing."

But will the influential veterans in Wyoming and the politicians on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., take heed? We certainly hope so.

Big league boo-boos in Little League teams

BACOLOD EXCHANGE



Ninfa R. Leonardia

ONCE again, the young athletes of Bacolod City who were chosen to represent the country in the Little League Series in various venues in the United States went through the same traumatic experience as did their predecessors.

For the third time, the football and baseball teams were all set to go but only to find out that the officials who were supposed to arrange their travel had been sitting on their papers and had prepared nothing—not their visas, and not even their flight bookings.

The teams left Bacolod and presented themselves to the American Embassy last Monday, with the first batch scheduled to leave Wednesday.

Naturally, nobody at the embassy would entertain them at first because they had no appointment.

Neither was there a schedule for interview.

After a lot of pleading and highly emotional appeals, the children, with ages ranging from 11 to 17, were finally interviewed and their visas granted.

But the visas were only for the first batch, the one destined for Portland, Oregon.

Their triumph turned to dismay again when it was discovered that no bookings had been made for their Wednesday trip, and the problem of space came up. Well, prayers must have worked again because they finally flew off Wednesday night.

Members of the next batches bound for Kirkland, Washington and Jeffersontown, Kentucky were still biting their fingernails in Manila as the last interview for visas was scheduled yesterday.

It is not as if this is the first time the city had its Little League players win the honor of representing the country in the World Series. And this is not the first time such a *faux pas* hounded them, thanks to the inefficiency and lack of foresight of both sports and city officials.

In 1999 and 2000, the same happened. In fact, one team was unable to compete because it couldn't get to the playing site on time.

Bacolod rooters continue to rely on prayers and the spunk of the kids so they could, at least, make a good showing.

* * *

But little baseball prayers are not all that incumbent city officials have to preoccupy their minds with.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court finally ruled on the long-drawn out case of public schoolteachers' Emergency Cost of Living Allowance of P700 a month that the previous administration had refused to pay. Since the teachers had been enjoying the benefit until 1998, when there was a change in administration, they fought for it, going up to the Highest Court for redress. The Supreme Court sustained the lower court's decision: They were entitled to the allowance, and the city has to pay them.

That was not the best news for city officials who are now embroiled in budgetary problems, with casual employees to pay, and so many other obligations to settle. The allowance is expected to require several millions of pesos and the teachers who have already waited for more than three years are not inclined to wait some more.

* * *

As for the city mayor, Luzviminda Valdez, who was proclaimed by the local Comelec despite petitions for her disqualification and for the annulment of her proclamation, the budget concerns must be only secondary to her worry that the case against her could prosper.

The cases involve the arrest of her supporters who were still posting her campaign materials and distributing black propaganda materials against her opponent early on election day. Political observers here say this is going to be a test case of the application of Comelec Resolution No. 3402.

The Bacolod election is yet to be resolved, and so is the one in EB Magalona town north of Negros Occidental, where the two candidates are still fighting it out with no proclamation made yet. At least the same problem that had caused as much tension in San Enrique town in the south was resolved last week with the proclamation of challenger Jillson Tubillara as winner over former Mayor Julius Lanzar.

* * *

But the issue that continues to occupy center stage in the city and province is the continued landing of what is suspected to be smuggled rice at the new Bredco Port in the center of Bacolod City.

Although some of the cargo had been seized and impounded, mysteriously, the cargo trucks bearing them have been allowed to drive off. So far, some of the thousands of sacks of rice said to be from Vietnam, had been claimed by consignees, but many remain in warehouses here. No shippers have been charged, and no consignees questioned, so far.

During interviews here recently, Sen. Serge Osmeña declared that he had the names of five influential people linked to rice smuggling but wouldn't identify them.

In private talks with media friends, however, the senator gave hints that these people were so far untouchable because they were close to the powers up there.

First District Rep. Julio Ledesma proposes a "final solution" to the problem—"We should kill the smugglers."

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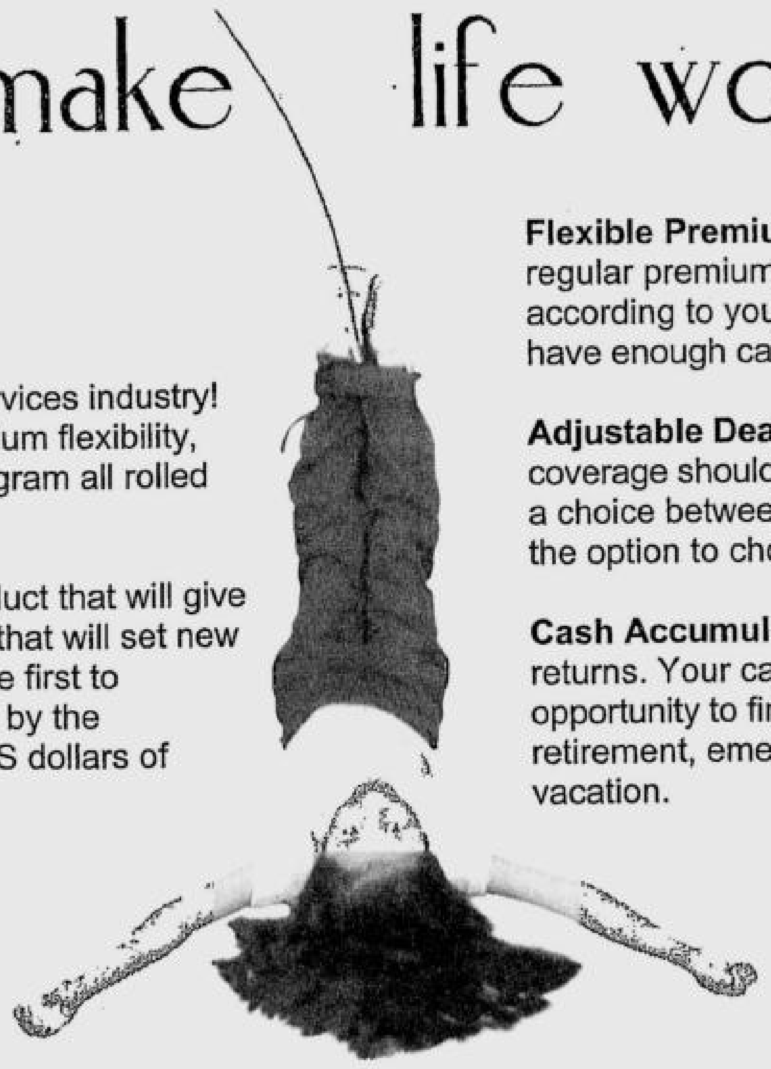

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MUSLIM youths greet President Macapagal during her visit to Marawi City yesterday on the second day of her Mindanao swing following her return from Malaysia Thursday.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA orders probe of AFP-Abu links

(From page A1)

But Reyes himself yesterday vouched for the integrity and professionalism of the officers led by Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez.

"When we impugn the integrity of our officers, especially generals, we have crossed the line," he said, adding he could not believe that Dominguez and the four other officers had received money from and allowed the Abu Sayyaf to break out of a cordon on June 2 in Lamitan, Basilan.

"I know these officers. They're professionals, and they will not do such a thing," he told reporters.

Reyes particularly bristled at Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's claim that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation was looking into the supposed conspiracy between military officers and the Abu Sayyaf.

"I don't think the FBI has any right to investigate anything in this country," Reyes said. "I don't see any reason why a foreign government should do it."

Nacorda had said he met with FBI agents on July 3 at the US Embassy, and "I was surprised to see the amount of information they gathered on the possible military conspiracy."

But in a statement issued yesterday, the US Embassy denied that the FBI office in Manila was pursuing an investigation of the AFP.

"The FBI has no authority to investigate Philippine government agencies and has no intention of doing so," the embassy said.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos last May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. Of the number, only two Filipinos and two Americans, missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, are still being held captive. The bandits had said they beheaded the third American, Martin Sobero, but his body has not been found.

"The FBI coordinates the exchange of information on a wide range of transnational criminal activities with law enforcement agencies in the Philippines. Its activities are conducted jointly with the Philippine government," the US Embassy said.

It added: "The FBI is cooperating closely with Philippine government authorities on the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and offering assistance when appropriate. But the United States recognizes that responsibility for the resolution of this case lies with Philippine authorities."

It reiterated that the United States "condemns in the strongest terms the Abu Sayyaf's brutal crimes against innocent victims" and "hold(s) the Abu Sayyaf responsible for the safety and welfare of the people it has kidnapped and call(s) for the safe, immediate and unconditional release of all the hostages."

Sooner than expected

The government has launched full-scale military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Asked how long it would take for the operations to be completed, the President said: "I don't want to give a very specific timetable, but . . . it would be sooner than you'd expect."

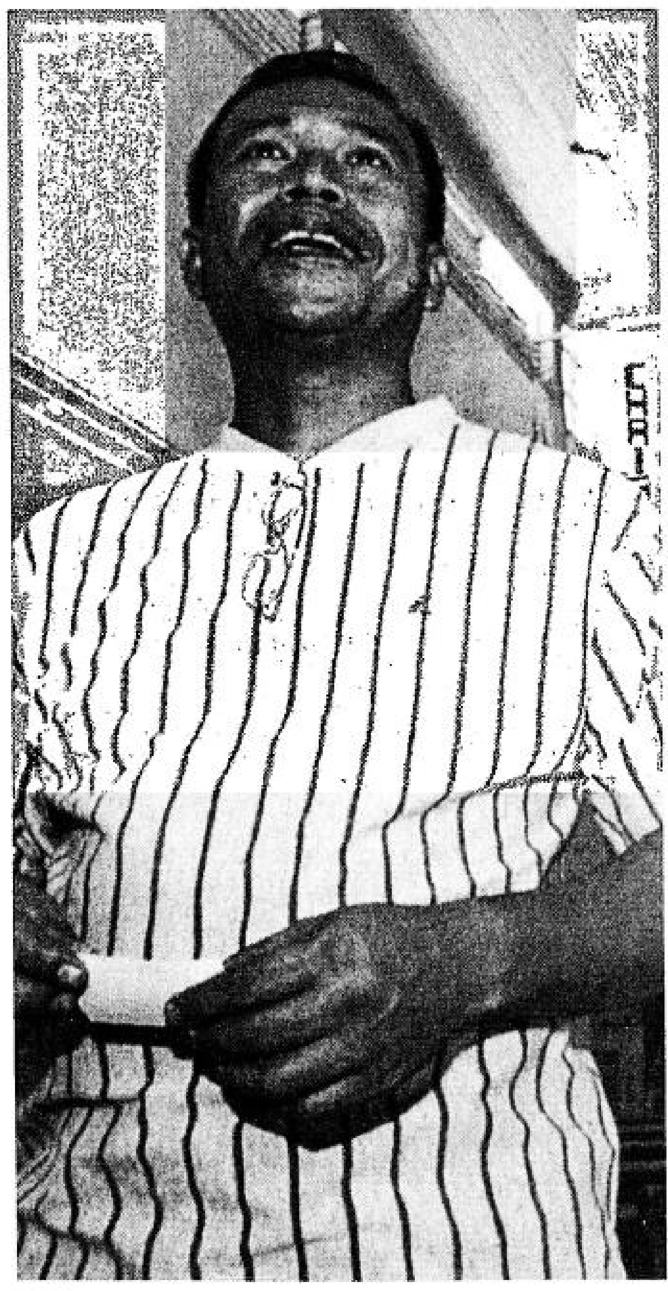
She said the military had asked for a P2-billion fund for "expenses including additional ammunition, payment for (militia troops) and allowances for soldiers going to Mindanao," but that the government was able to raise only P1 billion.

"Aside from that is one big item, additional gasoline, because they finished up their whole fuel (supply) for the whole year," she added.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said Thursday in Zamboanga City that the military had not set a new deadline in its war against the Abu Sayyaf.

"There are many variables to consider. We are just phasing our activities," he said.

Villanueva said every phase of the military operations against the bandit group was yielding results, but he did not specify whether these were good or bad.



NACORDA

"We get results after each phase, and we continue to assess (these)," he said.

Villanueva also said Nacorda was "hallucinating" when he made the allegation on the supposed conspiracy between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

"He is hallucinating. Something is wrong with him," Villanueva said.

The House and the Senate are set to conduct separate investigations of Nacorda's claims.

Defense Secretary Reyes said he had also directed the AFP to make its own inquiry.

But he declared that those accused would be "vindicated" as allegations against them "do not have basis in fact."

Reyes did not appear bothered when informed that Sen. Rodolfo Biazon reportedly had witnesses to corroborate Nacorda's claims.

"By all means, let these witnesses surface," he said.

He said government forces were "risking their lives" in the continuing operations against the Abu Sayyaf and should not be criticized.

"They deserve our support," he said.

Corroboration

But a nurse at the Lamitan District Hospital backed Nacorda's claim that money had changed hands during the June 2 siege and escape of the Abu Sayyaf.

The nurse, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said she saw Dominguez, an unidentified aide who was then carrying a black attaché case, and Col. Jovenal Narcise alight from a helicopter and proceed to the hospital's front desk.

"That was around 10 a.m. The aide opened the case, pulled out five P1,000 bills and placed these in a white envelope, which he gave to Dr. (Julius) Aguila, our resident physician," the nurse said.

The aide allegedly said the money was for a snack.

At around 2:30 p.m., Dominguez, his aide and Narcise allegedly left the hospital with the attaché case.

"When they returned (at around 4 p.m.), they had with them (hostages) Reghis Romero and Raul Recio, and I didn't notice the attaché case anymore," the nurse recalled.

She said the P5,000 was not used for a snack but for payment of their debts at the pharmacy.

Other nurses at the hospital claimed that they all saw the attaché case, but "never saw it again" after the siege.

Even members of the Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) in Lamitan, who served as blocking forces at the back of the Don Jose Torres Memorial hospital, believe that there was indeed connivance between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

CVO member Paterno Cordero, 45, expressed dismay when they saw around 3 p.m. of June 2 that a company of Scout Rangers had abandoned its post at the back of the hospital.

Around 5 p.m., Cordero saw some 30 Abu Sayyaf bandits walking out "single file" through the small door at the back of the hospital.

He said he believed there was a conspiracy.

"The soldiers were deployed there. Why were they ordered to withdraw? Anyone would be puzzled. There must have been an agreement," he said in Filipino.

Cordero said he was then with other CVO members Felimon Sanapan, Eligio Cordero, Danny Bentong, Arnold Silang, Ernesto Democrito, Carlito de la Cruz and Romy Francisco.

"Our morale was really low. We felt both sadness and anger. The soldiers had all left us. Only three policemen were left," he said.

'Sick mind'

In Zamboanga City, General Dominguez said over dxRZ Radyo Agong that Nacorda's allegations were "a concoction of a sick mind."

He said his order on that day was "to assault the objective before sundown."

"I do not know why this is being interpreted in so many ways by Father Nacorda," he said. "I did not give that order (to withdraw), and I believe whoever gave that kind of order should be shot by the soldiers themselves."

Dominguez said he was ready to answer Nacorda's claims and would welcome any investigation that would give the military the opportunity to defend itself against the priest's allegations. "Father Nacorda, may God bless you and see you in court," Dominguez said.

But Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan, quoted witnesses as saying that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya was seen roaming the Basilan capital of Isabela escorted by two military personnel only a week after the Lamitan siege.

Enriquez said at a press conference in Quezon City that her group was gathering the witnesses' sworn statements to prove the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

Karapatan, along with the Moro Christian People's Alliance and the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, called on the government to immediately order a formal investigation of the matter. ***With reports from Julie Alipala-Inot, Jonathan F. Ma and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila***

Peso peg is suicide, Gloria warned

(From page A1)

carefully," De Ocampo told the INQUIRER. "When your currency is under attack and you talk about a peg, you might find yourself in an even bigger attack like Thailand."

Black market

De Ocampo, who was finance secretary when the Asian financial crisis hit in 1997, said currency controls similar to those adopted by Malaysia might simply create a big market for the illicit trading of currencies.

"Part of the reason why Mahathir succeeded in the short-term with his so-called peg was that, first and foremost, his currency was not under that much attack," he stressed.

"Secondly, Malaysia has a very small population compared to ours. Third, their form of government is more centralized than ours, to put it diplomatically," he added.

Opposition senators agreed with assessments that currency controls would only create an underground foreign exchange market.

In a statement, Sen. Edgardo Angara said the plan "would spell economic suicide to an already ailing economy."

"Currency controls would only aggravate the worsening economic scenario," he said. "Foreign investors did not base their business plans on some overnight decision, which is what (President Macapagal) seemed to make with her announcement."

Binondo central bank

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said with the imposition of currency controls, banks would now require more documentation and impose more restrictions on dollar buying.

"People would be unable to buy US dollars when they need it," he said. "This will trigger the rebirth of the Binondo central bank."

The "Binondo central bank" was the infamous black market that emerged at the height of then President Ferdinand Marcos' currency controls in the early '80s.

"The dollar black market will hurt our economy and will mean billions of pesos in lost revenues for our government," Osmeña said.

Angara agreed, saying that should this happen, the dollar supply in the open market would dry up, forcing buyers to run to the black market.

"We would then have two rates—the Arroyo official rate, where there would be no available dollars, and a much higher, black market rate, where dollars would be more readily available," he said.

Speculation

Canlas, head of the National Economic and Development Authority, said Ms Macapagal's comments were aimed mainly at deterring speculators.

"The way I see it, it was a warning by the President to currency speculators," he told local radio. "However, the policy right now is that it (the exchange rate) is market-determined. But the administration is going to support the central bank curb on currency speculation."

The central bank warned it would impose stiffer penalties on banks found speculating in the local foreign exchange market.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura issued the warning a day after the BSP said it had imposed monetary and other penalties on nine banks and some of its officers for violation of foreign exchange rules.

"If we find any bank speculating by itself, we will slap stiffer sanctions," he said after a meeting of members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

He said the penalties would range from the suspension of the foreign exchange license of a bank and its officers, including its president.

Buenaventura said most of the nine banks that were sanctioned by the central bank merely facilitated the speculation of their clients.

"The banks themselves were not speculating but they facilitated the speculative activities of some clients," he said.

"We told them that if the violations will be repeated, we will increase the penalties."

Exportbank clarification

One of the banks, the Export and Industry Bank (Exportbank), clarified yesterday that the infractions cited by the BSP "arose from technical deficiencies in documentations by client importers."

Exportbank president Benjamin P. Castillo, in a press statement, said the bank always complies with rules and regulation of the BSP, including those involving dollar transactions.

"Exportbank supports trade-related transactions of exporters and importers, particularly the small and medium," Castillo said. "The law creating Exportbank mandated us to be a trade-finance bank to meet the market needs of exporters and importers. Hence, dollars go to our clients to settle trade-based transactions, not for dollar speculations."

"We have been meeting with our client-importers to help them avoid these technical deficiencies," he said. "Over time, our clients, many of them small and medium, have been able to fulfill documentation requirements."

Ms Macapagal said the central bank's crackdown on currency speculators was encouraging and "helpful."

"The aim of all those of these actions is to reduce speculation so that the peso would go back to its own true, fundamental worth," she said.

Strong peso

The peso broke past the 52-per-dollar level yesterday as players cut short positions aggressively after the central bank's second liquidity reserve requirement hike in three weeks.

The local currency closed at 51.85 to a dollar—its highest level in 40 days—from Thursday's P53.

"There was some dollar selling by foreign banks, the amount was not big but was enough to unnerve the market and put corporates back on hold," said a local bank dealer in Manila.

That selling, coupled with export-related inflow and the stronger tone in regional currencies, pushed the peso up, he said. He added that the dollar should find some support from corporate bids around 51.80.

Buenaventura said the peso could strengthen to 50 to the dollar by the end of the year, a level that Ms Macapagal described as realistic.

"It's doable. One is you have to get the peace-and-order situation under control. That's paramount to getting people to invest back in the Philippines," Buenaventura said.

Risk to exports

AIM's Neri said the country with capital controls ran the risk of undermining its export industry.

"In the case of Argentina, for example, its exports became uncompetitive because when its currency was pegged (to the dollar) it didn't have the flexibility of lower prices when other countries like Brazil and other Latin America currencies decided to let their currencies depreciate . . . so Argentinian exports went down."

Ms Macapapal explained that her philosophy was still rooted in letting market forces determine the peso's value.

"Basically, I believe in market forces. But even in orthodox economics, when there is a failure of market forces, you look at other options and when you have experienced speculation, that is probably a failure of market forces," she said. ***Clarissa S. Batino, Doris C. Dumlao, Armand S. Nocum, Martin F. Martil and INQUIRER Wires***

WORLD POOL MASTERS

London invites Bata, Django

MayniLA Girls leave tonight for US softball

HIGH hopes are pinned on the MayniLA Golden Girls as they leave tonight for Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA to compete in the 2001 Girls Big League Softball World Series, which opens Aug. 13.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who celebrated his 60th birthday yesterday, will personally send off the 16-18-year-old softbelles, who earned the right to represent the country by topping their division in the Philippines series held in May in Bulacan.

"What better birthday gift *kung may mauuwing medalya.* But we will definitely go for the championship. *Ipakita natin kung anong klaseng mga tao ang mga Manilenyo at mga Pilipino,*" Atienza said.

The mayor is supporting the team financially.

It marked the first time that Manila is carrying the country's colors in any international meet.

Backed up by four veterans and led by former 13-14 World Series Most Valuable player and shortstop Theresa Lagman, the MayniLA Golden girls are one of the favorites to win in the Big League bracket.

"If you have faced the best in the world and will now complete with newcomers from the junior league, your confidence level will definitely be high," said head coach Filomeno "Boy" Codinera Jr.

Guba, Moreno enter semis

SECOND seed Johan Guba outplayed No. 8 Joseph Arcilla, 7-5, 6-7, (4), 6-2, yesterday to arrange a boys' 18-under semifinal showdown with John Rey Moreno in the Philta Classic 3 Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The fifth-seeded Moreno had earlier scored a 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 reversal over No. 3 Carlo Manalastas.

In other matches, Pius Ocampo downed Allan Agulto, 6-1, 6-0, to advance against No. 4 Ian de Guzman, a 6-4, 6-0 winner Francis Venzon.

No. 1 Jandrick de Castro, No. 2 Russel Arcilla Jr. and Bambi Zoleta also booked semifinal berths in this two-weekend tournament sponsored by PSC, Pacific East Asia Cargo and Dunlop balls.

Seles outlasts Testud

MANHATTAN BEACH, California—Away most of the year with an injured foot, Monica Seles wanted to play lots of matches to test her game. She got an extended workout Thursday in the estyle.com Classic. The American needed four match points and more than two hours to beat Sandrine Testud of France, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, in the third round. "She and I always play these marathon matches," said Seles, who has beaten Testud seven consecutive times and holds a 9-3 lead in the series. "Both of us have similar style games and we're both huge competitors." *AP*

Guga beats Goran in 41 minutes

MASON, Ohio — In a match between Grand Slam champions that took just 41 minutes, top-seeded Gustavo "Guga" Kuerten of Brazil beat No. 14 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, 6-2, 6-1, in the third round of the Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati. Kuerten, the French Open champion, broke Ivanisevic in the third game of Thursday's match and then continued his dominance. Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon champion, had won nine consecutive matches but was again unable to handle Kuerten, who has won four of their five career meetings. *AP*

10 YEARS AGO

ROBERTO Jainaiz beat Vicente Galido via a referee stopped contest in the second round to rule the bantamweight division of the Abap-PSC National Open boxing elimination at the Del Pan Sports Complex in Tondo. The win gave Jalnaiz a slot to the Manila SEA Games.

* * *

THE MILLONADOS did a 1-2-3 finish in Class A in the penultimate elimination leg of the Johnnie Walker Tournament of Champions at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club in Diliman, Quezon City. Jay tallied a gross of two-over-par 74 for a net 69 then beat his father Boy, who also had a net 69 on a handicap of 9, in the countback for the crown. Joey placed third with a net 70.

REYES: Will always remain an attraction. FILE PHOTO

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are among the Top 16 world players invited to play in the World Pool Masters Tournament to be held Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 in London at the Lakewood Sports Center in England.

For the first time, a lady is included in a men's tournament—Allison Fisher. Fisher is a three-time lady world champion.

Total prize money is $50,000.00

Reyes is bracketed with Cardiff World Pool series winner Mika Immonen of Finland while Bustamante is bracketed with Ralf Souquet of Germany and Fisher.

Souquet lost to Immonen in the Cardiff finals where both Reyes and Bustamante competed. Reyes reached the Round of 32 but not Bustamante.

The draw:

Ralf Souquet (Germany) vs Radoslaw Babica (Poland)
Quinlen Hann (Australia) vs Allison Fisher (England)
Francisco Bustamante (Philippines) vs Fabio Petroni (Italy)
Steve Davis (England) vs Marcus Chamat (Sweden)
Alex Lely (Holland) vs Earl Strickland (USA)
Steve Knight (England) vs Chia-hsiung Lai (Chinese Taipei)
Tony Drago (Malta) vs Efren Reyes (Philippines)
Thomas Engert (Germany) vs Mika Immonen (Finland)

Stag screening resumes tomorrow

SCREENING of stags will resume tomorrow at Las Piñas Cockpit in connection with the "Annual LPC 5-Stag Derby," which is set for Aug. 27 and Aug. 29. The two-day stagfest, sponsored by Pagcor-Çasino Filipino, dangles a guaranteed prize of P500,000 plus three refrigerators to the champions. Entry fee is P11,000.

Proceeds of the derby will go to several community projects of Las Piñas City Mayor Nene Aguilar like Clean and Green, livelihood and barangay feeding program.

Mayor Aguilar, derby host, announced that screening is being held at LPC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A total of 47 cockers and breeders have passed the screening so far.

For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, interested parties may contact 873-1040 or 871-4345.

Among the early registrants are Danny Ty, Boy de Roca, Sen. Ramon Revilla, Bong Revilla, Henry Medina, Gerry Ramos, Cito Zamesa, Cito Manansala, Roger del Rosario, Toto Papag and Richard Bates.

Stature

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SEEMINGLY, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will remain among the world's top guns longer than we expected. Proof to this is their inclusion in the cast for the World Pool Masters in London, where only 16 had been invited for the event set from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2. (*See related story.*)

The recognition accorded Bata and Django is also a testament to the Filipino's now-indelible mark as a world-class cue artist. If you will recall, Django did not even figure prominently in the Cardiff event held only a while back; he lost in the Round of 64. At least for Bata, who won in Cardiff in 1999, his battle ended in the Round of 32. It was Bata's 1999 triumph that catapulted the Philippines to the world billiards map, igniting a billiards boom in the country.

Notice that Leonardo "Dodong" Andam, who reached the quarterfinals in Cardiff, was not invited.

But I can understand the organizers; they must have felt that Dodong does not have the international stature that both Bata and Django command. N'yet, anyways. But I believe that, in due time, Dodong will reach his peak.

■

Somewhere in our Sports Section today is a report that Tiny Literal has refused a move by Rep. Monico Puentevella to bring a solution to the Literal-Lito Puyat fight that has continued to rip the Basketball Association of the Philippines apart.

If Lito Puyat has agreed to the Puentevella formula, what's holding Literal from also agreeing to it?

Puentevella has merely asked the two to sign an agreement to end their quarrel after which the Bacolod solon will present the document to hasten the lifting of the suspension of the BAP imposed recently by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

Tell me, what's wrong with that, Tiny?

■

Jake Ayson's golf set, which was lost at Wack Wack during the recent Philippine Open, has not been recovered. To the person who may have accidentally loaded it in his car, please call Jake at 525-6987 or 931-2177.

Ong defeats Del Rosario

SUBIC—Newcomer Dennis Ong defeated Paul del Rosario to capture the Offshore Ironman title in the third leg of the 2001 Petron Jetsports Offshore Enduro Cup recently at the Waterfront Beach here.

Ong and Del Rosario battled fiercely for the lead, until Ong took control at the turn and never looked back from there.

Del Rosario went for a last-ditch move on the eighth lap but Ong kept his pace and crossed the finish line just three seconds ahead of Del Rosario.

"It's really hard going up against Paul (del Rosario). He was inching closer going into the eighth lap and I then felt exhaustion was already getting into my system," said Ong.

"So hindi ko na inintindi yung pagod and sank into my mind that I will win this race," he said.

Ong likewise bagged the Novice title over runner-up and veteran car racer Roland Hermoso and third placer Allan Young, who surprised everyone with his consistency and endurance in the one-hour race sponsored by Petron Corp. WG&A Super Ferry and SBMA.

Del Rosario also copped the Expert title while Nilo Santiago of the Roland Aguila team, who finished fourth overall, ruled the 1200 class. Comebacking Nonoy Ortiz checked in fifth overall and wound up fourth in the Novice class over Eric San Pedro, Coy Felizardo and Wilfred So.

Adidas Streetball on at SM

Checkmate today

THE MILO Checkmate is set today at the Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila, and 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) in San Juan. The games will start at 9 a.m. at the RMSC and 2:30 p.m. at GSC.

THE COUNTRY'S best three-on-three squads battle for supremacy in five divisions in this weekend's Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001 national finals at SM Megamall.

The best and the brightest, along with the prettiest, will parade their skills before an expected jampacked crowd starting today, playing the kind of basketball Filipinos love best.

"This will yet be the most exciting championship series since the qualifiers are the best in their regions," said Adidas Philippines sales and marketing director Sonny Nebres.

The final caps two months of hardcourt action in the NCR, Visayas, Mindanao and Northern Luzon, where close to 2,000 teams took part.

"We are looking forward to a grand final where the country's best young talents will display their skills," said Adidas Philippines Inc. head John Alonte.. "We hope to have contributed to grassroots development of basketball."

Action is toughest in the senior division where Baguio, the tallest squad among the four finalists, faces a stiff challenge.

Aptly named Team Artillery, Baguio boasts of 6-foot-2 slasher Rey Ryan Rizada and 6-foot-5 Francis Barcellano, the league's tallest player.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	46	.600	—
Boston	64	50	.561	4 1/2
Toronto	54	61	.470	15
Baltimore	48	68	.414	211/2
Tampa Bay	38	77	.330	31
Central				
Cleveland	64	50	.561	
Minnesota	64	50	.561	
Chicago	56	57	.496	7 1/2
Detroit	48	65	.425	15 1/2
Kansas City	45	70	.391	19 1/2
West				
Seattle	83	32	.722	
Oakland	65	50	.565	18
Anaheim	60	55	.522	23
Texas	50	65	.435	33

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	64	50	.561	—
Philadelphia	62	52	.544	2
Florida	58	56	.509	6
New York	54	61	.470	10 1/2
Montreal	48	67	.417	16 1/2
Central				
Chicago	65	48	.575	—
Houston	64	50	.561	1 1/2
St. Louis	58	55	.513	7
Milwaukee	47	65	.420	17 1/2
Cincinnati	47	66	.416	18
Pittsburgh	44	69	.389	21
West				
Los Angeles	65	50	.565	—
San Francisco	64	51	.557	1
Arizona	63	51	.553	1 1/2
San Diego	55	59	.482	9 1/2
Colorado	47	67	.412	17 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 6, Cleveland 4; Oakland 6, Boston 0; N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3; Kansas City 5, Baltimore 4; Texas 7, Detroit 3; Toronto 6, Seattle 5; Anaheim 3, Chicago White Sox 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

N.Y. Mets 4, Milwaukee 3; Florida 3, Arizona 1; San Diego 6, Philadelphia 2; Colorado 14, Chicago Cubs 5; St. Louis 9, Montreal 6; Pittsburgh 8, Los Angeles 5; San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 4; Houston 6, Atlanta 5. *AP*

Philracom Confetti Stakes tomorrow

FIVE promising two-year-old fillies take center stage tomorrow at the Santa Ana Park as they vie for the coveted Philracom "Confetti Stakes," a P400,000-added money race that also serves as the jump-off point of the 2001 Philracom Juvenile Fillies Championship Series.

The featured event is part of the Philippine Racing Commission's ambitious P4 million Juvenile stakes calendar for local-bred two-year-olds, a program that aims to develop future track stars and create a robust market for new horses in support of the local horse breeding industry.

"Together with the objective of discovering outstanding prospects among the present crop of two-year-olds, it is also our expectation that these races would further heighten the level of excitement in our tracks and encourage the entry of new players in the sport-industry," said Philracom Chair Andrew A. Sanchez.

Set to do battle in the 900-meters Philracom "Confetti Stakes," named after 1998 Juvenile Filly Champion Confetti, are five up-and-coming fillies led by recent PCSO Sweepstakes Race second placer D'Raven (Stone God-McCabb's Princess), a known speedball set to be ridden by jockey Valentin Dilema for the sprint journey.

D'Raven broke her maiden on July 20 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome in

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Solani Belle 2. The Warrior 3. Hot Number 4. Annihilator 5. Gifted galloper
Race 2—1. Dazzling Doe 2. Perfect Diamond 3. American Music
Race 3—1. Bohemyo 2. Tanging Ikaw 3. Witchcraft 4. Osang 5. Big Treasure
Race 4—1. Courage 2. Perfect Gift 3. Mirame
Race 5—1. D Contractor 2. Take Chances 3. Flash Back 4. Septembermorn 5. Centennial 6. Dominant Dancer
Race 6—1. Howard Huge 2. Forgotten Hero 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Accommodating 5. Golden Prince
Race 7—1. Red Thunder 2. Inner Wheeler 3. Soldier Blue
Race 8—1. Hole in One 2. Miguel's Pet 3. Hot Lips 4. Water Polo 5. Mahdi's Gold
Race 9—1. Gabriel's Pet 2. Hemisphere 3. Precious Janina 4. So Generous 5. James Joy
Race 10—1. Reverie 2. Count Me In 3. Musika 4. Gold and Dollar
Race 11—1. Sparking Sky 2. Queen Storm 3. Lorna 4. Alexander 5. Freshman
Race 12—1. Go Johnny Go 2. Turbo Karera 3. Maximo 4. Knows Love 5. Nevada Dancer
Race 13—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Gold Honors 3. Terminal Bound 4. Maayo Sigaw 5. Uzisaki 6. Lady Queen

76ers going ballistic

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

UNEASY is the head that wears the NBA Eastern conference crown.

With their closest pursuers restocking their rosters for the 2001-02 campaign in a bid to unseat them as East titlists, the Philadelphia 76ers have gone ballistic themselves.

They have been wheeling and dealing in a bid to remove players, including a key starter from the Larry Brown-coached team that advanced to the NBA Finals last June for the first time since 1983 before losing to the back-to-back champion LA Lakers in five games.

The 76ers completed a pair of trades on Aug. 3.

The Quaker City outfit sent forwards Tyrone Hill and Jumaine Jones to Cleveland for forwards Matt Harpring and Cedric Henderson and forward-center Robert Traylor. Later, it jettisoned injury-prone forward Roshown McLeod and a future first-round draft choice to Boston for sophomore-to-be forward Jerome Moiso.

Philadelphia had earlier lost restricted free-agent reserve center Todd MacCulloch to New Jersey when it elected not to exercise its right of first refusal. It instead matched the Nets' six-year, $35-million offer sheet to the 7-foot Canadian, who exhibited flashes of brilliance against Lakers mastodon Shaquille O'Neal during the 2001 NBA Finals. The 76ers were not expected to match the offer since they are over the $42.5 million salary cap after re-signing their own free agents Dikembe Mutombo and Aaron McKie to lucrative multiyear contracts.

Of the four players the Sixers surrendered, only Hill was a starter.

The 6-foot-9, 33-year-old Hill, who had his only All-Star season (1995) during a previous four-year stint (1993-97) with the Cavaliers and has two years remaining on his contract at $6.6 million per season, averaged 9.6 points and 9.1 rebounds (second only to Mutombo) in 76 regular games with the 76ers last season. He struggled in the playoff, though, as his role was reduced.

Jones hit at a measly 4.7-point clip in 65 appearances during the regulars but the 6-8 sophomore out of the University of Georgia played well during the postseason, filling in for an injured George Lynch at the starting small forward spot. The 22-year-old Jones also was named to all-tournament team in the Boston-based Shaw's Pro Summer League last July, averaging 17.6 points and 7.2 boards in six games with the 76ers entry. It was this performance that spurred the Cavaliers to agree to a trade with Philly.

Tac's Team, Wang's crew dispute crown

GAMES TODAY
6:30 p.m.—Army vs Hub Net Cafe
8:00 p.m.—Wang's vs Spring

NATIONAL shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil got back at Army with vengeance Thursday, posting a lopsided 104-77 victory to arrange a showdown with Wang's Ball Club for the Spiceland-NBC Danny Espiritu Cup basketball title today at Makati Coliseum.

Led by Mar Reyes and Jun Dural, Coach Tito Palma's Spring cagers raced to a 58-24 halftime lead and never looked back as they avenged their 87-98 loss to Army last Saturday.

Wang's and Spring will dispute the crown at 8 p.m. today after Army meets Hub Net Café at 6:30 for third place in the series sponsored by Pisong Asing, Spring Margarine, Tanduay Distillery, Red Bull, Mobiline, SMB, Ginebra San Miguel, Purefoods and Alaska Milk and supported by Milo.

The scores:

SPRING (104)—Reyes 31, Dural 15, De Castro 12, Pacheco 10, Mallari 9, Buendia 9, Cuevas 6, Garcia 6, Nabung 2, Lapena 2, Anonuevo 2, Limbo 0, Simpas 0

ARMY (77)—Mendoza 21, Manuel 10, Castillo 9, Ilagan 9, Vengaura 7, Montemayor 6, Jabar 5, Malapit 4, Mendoza 4, Magdayao 2, Baltazar 0, Gutierrez 0, Lagundi 0, Yenzon 0 Halftime: 58-24

Rodman case

NEWPORT BEACH, California—The arraignment of former NBA player Dennis Rodman on charges he disturbed the peace with his 40th birthday celebration was postponed for the third time Wednesday.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Jamoa Moberly postponed the arraignment until Aug. 29 after Rodman's attorney filed a motion to dismiss the case.

Boxing's Futch marks 90th

NEW YORK—Eddie Futch, a truly great boxing teacher, celebrated his 90th birthday Thursday.

The trainer, who worked with 20 world champions, walked away from boxing four years ago, but remains a part of it because of his vast knowledge.

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De La Hoya pulls out of fight

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey —Oscar De La Hoya, the WBC super welterweight champion, has changed his mind about fighting Fernando Vargas on Dec. 8, Vargas' promoter said. Gary Shaw, chief operating officer of Main Events, said he was informed of De La Hoya's decision Thursday by telephone with Howard Rose of Univision, De La Hoya's promoter. The fight, however, had been contingent on Vargas beating Jose Flores of Mexico for the vacant WBA super welterweight title on Sept. 22.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Biggest grudge match set

EDMONTON, Alberta — The race is on. Olga Yegorova passed her doping test Thursday, a day after Gabriela Szabo withdrew her boycott threat, setting up the biggest grudge match of the World Championships. They will meet head-to-head in Thursday night's 5,000-meters qualifiers. The final is Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Lito OK but not Tiny–Monico

BY JUNE NAVARRO

EVEN Congress has already joined the search for a lasting solution to the conflict involving two claimants of the presidency of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Bacolod City Representative Monico Puentevella yesterday said he met with feuding leaders Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and Quinteliano Literal in a bid to end the long-running BAP leadership crisis.

In his capacity as chair of the House Committee on Youth and Sports, Puentevella said he instructed both parties to sign an agreement to pave the way for the lifting of the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) suspension.

Puentevella said Puyat, without thinking twice, affixed his signature during the two-hour gathering at the Heritage Hotel while Literal refused to do so without the consent of his BAP board. Puentevella also signed as witness.

"We decided to intercede because it has embarrassed the country already," said Puentevella, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

He added basketball-loving representatives Conrad Estrella of Pangasinan, Miguel Zubiri of Bukidnon and Tony Abaya of Isabela initiated the move.

Until yesterday, Literal has not yet signed the letter of agreement. The INQUIRER tried to contact Literal but was told that he was out of town.

Literal's secretary general, Graham Lim, said he heard about the meeting but said Literal still has to discuss the matter with the board.

"I'm appealing to Tiny and the people around him to sign the agreement and talk about rivalry and power struggle after the SEA Games," said Puentevella.

Once consummated, he said the letter of agreement will be submitted to POC president Celso Dayrit, who, in turn, will communicate with the Fiba to allow the national dribblers to participate in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games on Sept. 9-17.

PUENTEVELLA

FEU disputes leadership vs La Salle

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
La Salle	5	1	NU	3	3
FEU	5	1	UST	2	4
Ateneo	5	1	UP	1	5
UE	3	3	Adamson	0	6

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—La Salle vs FEU (Srs)

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ROLES have been reversed as "four-ward" seeking La Salle renews its rivalry with last year's championship victim Far Eastern University in an expected blockbuster match of the UAAP men's basketball championship today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Unlike last year's finals showdown, the Green Archers will be the underdog this time as they clash with the title-hungry Tamaraws at 4 p.m, after the 2 p.m. game between Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas.

The Green Archers, Blue Eagles and the Tamaraws are bunched in first place with identical 5-1, win-loss cards in this 64th edition of the UAAP.

La Salle team manager Terry Capistrano, whose partnership with coach Franz Pumaren netted last year's crown, is not disputing La Salle's underdog tag.

"FEU has the edge and this is going to be an extremely competitive game. It's going to be a very tight match and we have to play cohesively from start to finish in order to have a chance," Capistrano said.

Said Pumaren: "FEU has the most number of veterans in the league, aside from Ateneo and NU. This game is an acid test and we have to improve our defense in order to win."

Coach Koy Banal of the Tamaraws noted that man for man, FEU is superior. La Salle is missing old reliables veterans Alvin Castro, Ronald Cuan and Muggsy Magsumbol, putting more pressure on Ren Ren Ritualo and Mike Cortez."

Negros rips Cebu; SJ whips Batangas

BY ROY LUARCA

LIPA CITY—The Andok's San Juan Knights got hot as the LBC Batangas Blades cooled down to post a victory last night in the opener of their Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase, 94-82, semifinal series at the Sentrum De La Salle Lipa.

The Knights held the Blades without a field goal for more than seven minutes to turn the game around, 72-62, from a 10-point deficit. Dacia and Calaguio accounted for 22 of the Knights' 32 points in the quarter.

San Juan coach Philip Cezar proved his professionalism by steering the Knights to the come-from-behind win despite the death of his father, David Sr., yesterday.

The game was halted for nearly three minutes as fans pelted the floor with coins, one of which hit referee Elviro Banilla on the forehead, after an offensive foul was called on Eddie Laure with 7 minutes and 5 seconds left and the Blades ahead, 80-66.

Unstoppable with his drives, Dacia finished with a game-high 30 points and was named bets player of the game.

San Juan tries to sweep the best-of-three series tomorrow when Game Two is held at the San Juan Gym.

Earlier, the Negros Slashers solved the riddle of the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems' pressure defense and prevailed, 192-91, in Game One of their own semis series at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Bringing down the ball quickly and converting clutch three-pointers, the Slashers put away the pesky Gems, who played minus Matthew Mitchell, who is still in the United States.

60 schools vie for finals slots

SIXTY high school teams vie for the six remaining berths to the Nike 3-on-3 national finals when the Metro Manila eliminations get going today at the La Salle Greenhills.

Led by defending champion Letran, the participating schools have been divided into 12 groups with the topnotcher in each group advancing into playoffs for six finals slots.

The Letran Squires are in Group 4 with Angelicum College, International Christian Academy, Kostka School and St. Francis of Assisi-Taguig.

The other groupings are:

Group 1—Benedictine Abbey School of Quezon City, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong, O.B. Montessori, St. Benedict College and San Sebastian College.

Group 2—Colegio Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor, Southridge School, University of the Philippines Integrated School and Villagers Montessori School.

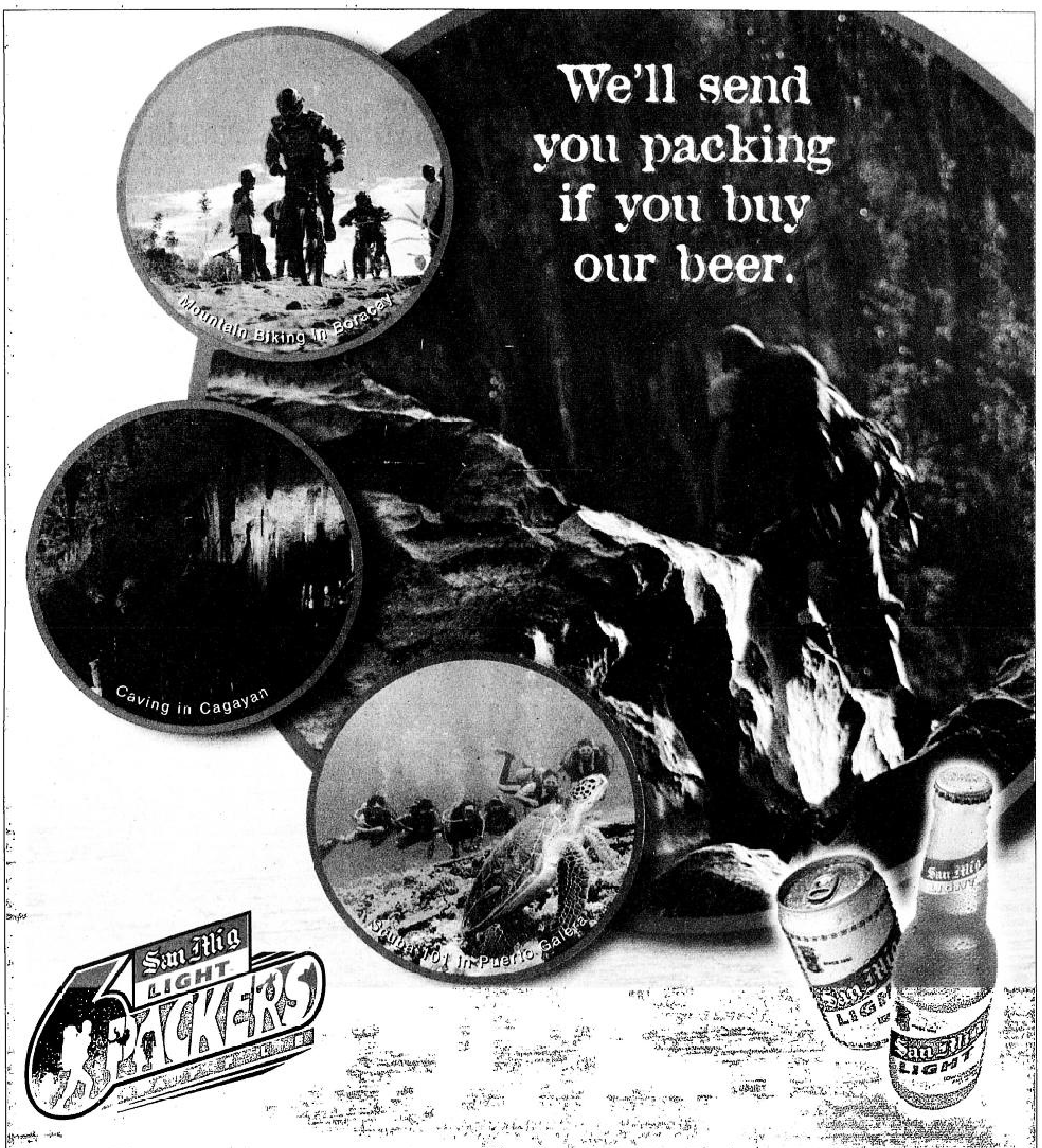
Group 3—Ateneo de Manila, Grace Christian Academy, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Grace Christian School and Malate Catholic School.

Group 5—Don Bosco Technical Institute-Mandaluyong, International Christian School, San Beda College, School of St. Anthony QC and University of Santo Tomas.

Group 6—Adamson University, Makati High School (Pio del Pilar Annex), Our Lady's Grace Motnessori, Philippine Science High School and Rizal High School.

Group 7—Notre Dame of Greater Manila, St. Francis of Assisi-Las Pinas, St. Joseph's Academy, Southville International School and School of St. Anthony-Las Pinas.

Group 8—Don Bosco Technical Institute-Makati, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, Marist School, Mary Cause of Our Joy Catholic School and Philippine College of Criminology.



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Get the chance to win action-packed adventure trips for you + 5 friends to Boracay, Puerto Galera, Cagayan, and other great getaways.

THE GRAND PRIZE
There will be six (6) barkada winners in the Grand Draw on October 19, 2001, one for each prize specified below:

AREA:	PRIZE:
Greater Manila	Kayaking in Bantayan Island, Cebu
Greater Manila	Mountain Biking in Boracay
Central and Northern Luzon	Parasailing in Maribago Bluewater Resort, Cebu
South Luzon	Whitewater Rafting in Cagayan Valley
Visayas	Caving in Cagayan Valley
Mindanao	Scuba Diving in Puerto Galera

PLUS each barkada gets ₱5,000 pocket money *and* TV coverage of their adventure through one of the San Mig Light 6 Packers episodes on Lakbay TV.

OTHER PRIZES
There will also be great prizes to be given away in the First Draw on August 31, 2001

Ten (10) *Samsung N100* WAP enabled phones	(two winners per area)
Ten (10) ₱10,000 Gift Certificates from *Reebok*	(two winners per area)
Ten (10) ₱ 7,500 Gift Certificates from *VANS*	(two winners per area)

HOW TO JOIN
All you need to do to join the raffle is buy six cans or bottles of San Mig Light from any participating store, supermarket, bar or restaurant. Get an entry form, fill it up, and drop the tear-off part in the designated dropboxes.

The promo goes on from June 15 to September 30, 2001.

All adults 18 to 34 years old can join this raffle.

CLAIMING OF PRIZES
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On Target: FBI has a file on Lacson A20

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Ex-peers cry, probe Jinggoy

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORMER San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada is in for more trouble as his former peers in the League of Municipalities of the Philippines want him investigated for alleged anomalies in the distribution of ambulances to local governments during his term as LMP president.

Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico Jr., newly elected LMP president, said that in ordering the investigation of Estrada, his administration merely complied to the "clamor" of a number of mayors whose towns did not receive the vehicles.

"Where are those ambulances now? I do not see them," Guico said.

Last year, Sr. Christine Tan, a former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office board member, said then President Joseph Estrada told the PCSO board to send all of its ambulances to his son Jinggoy for him to distribute as president of the LMP.

Tan's revelation was part of her exposé on the alleged cornering of PCSO funds by Estrada's family.

But Jinggoy Estrada denied any irregularity in the distribution of the ambulances.

"As the league president, I am in the position to know what municipality is in dire need of ambulances," he said last year.

He said he was only a conduit in the distribution of ambulances to needy districts.

Guico, 44, ran unopposed for the LMP presidency, a feat political observers attributed to his being a distant cousin of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Macapagal's late mother, Eva Guico Macaraeg, and the mayor's father, the late Ramon Guico Sr., were second cousins.

Guico said he has yet to look at the LMP records and to have these audited before taking appropriate action against his predecessor.

"We have auditors who will examine the records left behind by the past administration," he said. "Based on the results of the audit, we will determine whether to take legal action against Jinggoy."

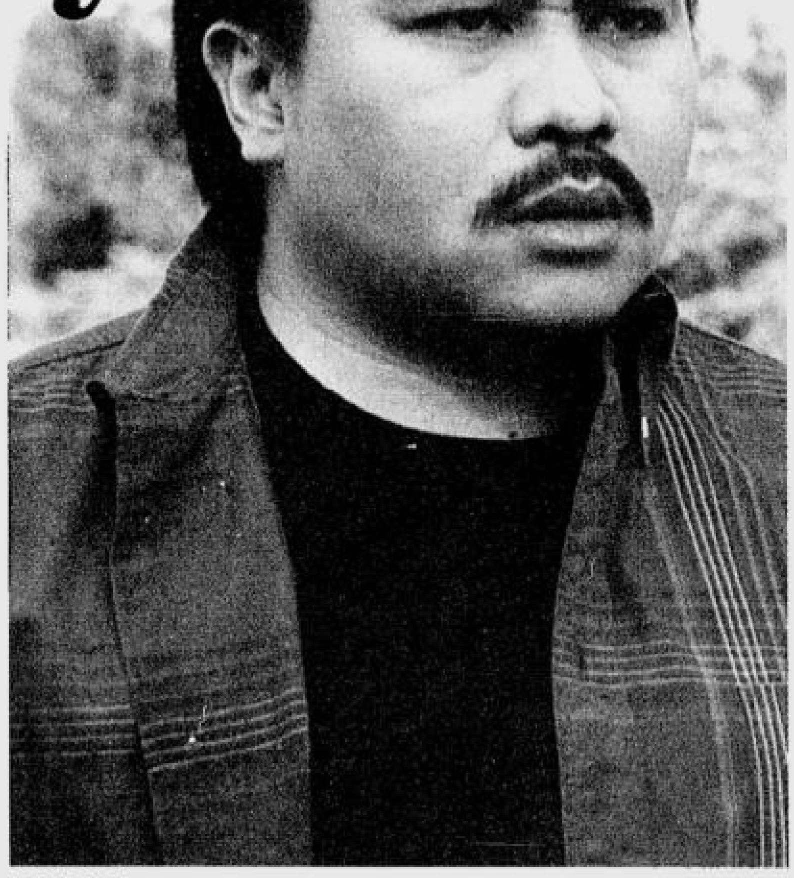
Guico said the former San Juan mayor was not invited to the induction of the LMP's new officers last Saturday "because he would not be able to come anyway."

Estrada is detained on plunder charges together with his father.

It was Bohol Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera, the former mayor of Calape, Bohol, and LMP executive vice president for operations, who turned over the league to the new officers.

Guico said he inherited an empty coffer from Estrada's term.

"It is debt-laden but we will try to settle these debts," Guico said.



ESTRADA

Student group renews fight for justice in ROTC slay

By Jerome Aning

ABOUT 50 college students belonging to the group Abolish! yesterday bewailed the slowness of the resolution of the murder of ROTC cadet and UST student Mark Welson Chua.

"Until now, his family, friends and classmates continue crying for justice," said Abolish! spokesperson Romulo Yumul, Chua's friend and fellow ROTC cadet during the group's picket yesterday in front of the National Bureau of Investigation office in Ermita, Manila.

Yumul said they would continue campaigning for the abolition of the ROTC because it is "the ultimate justice" they could give to Chua and other victims of alleged corruption in the military program.

Abolish! also announced that it would stage another anti-ROTC rally in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig on Sunday.

"The greatest blunder and injustice for the victims and the rest of the cadets is continuing the ROTC," said Cristina Palabay, co-convenor of Abolish! "It would allow more students to lose their lives because of it."

Palabay claimed that ROTC as an institution only "breeds hostility and violence as its orientation provides."

Yumul and Chua filed the complaints that led to the relief of the UST-ROTC officials.

Chua was abducted and later killed after his exposure of the alleged anomalies in the ROTC. His body, which was wrapped in carpet, was fished out of the Pasig River last March 19. Chua was hog-tied, and his face was bound in masking tape.

NBI agents later arrested two ROTC officials as suspects in Chua's killing. The case is in the preliminary investigation stage at the city prosecutor's office.

Abolish! has launched a 1-million signature drive for the scrapping of the military training course and has collected at least 400,000 signatures from various student-cadets nationwide.

The group said it would lobby its cause before the Senate and Bayan Muna representatives.

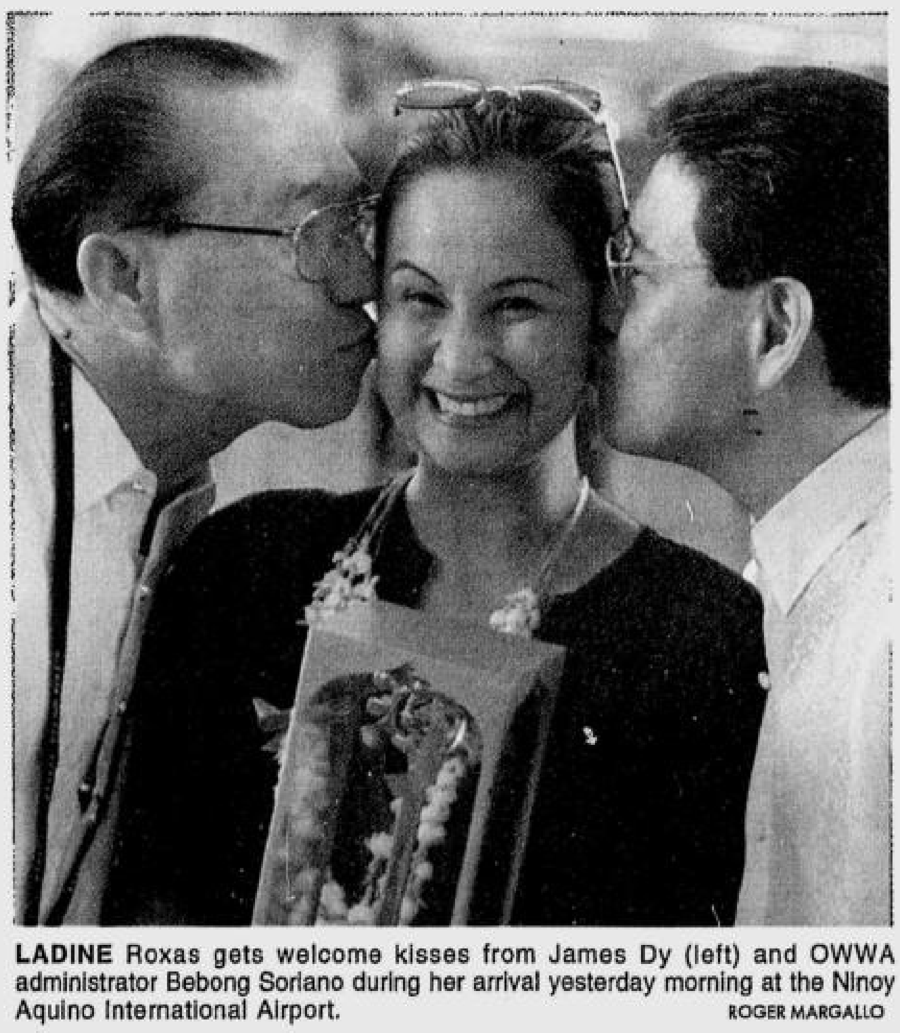
Supported by the National Union of Students of the Philippines and the Anakbayan, Abolish! has organized several walkouts and rallies calling for the abolition of the ROTC.

But several student and youth groups and even Chua's father Welson only want to see reforms in the ROTC.

JUSTICE 4 MARK CHUA
ABOLISH ROTC

A STUDENT wraps his face in toilet paper at a students' rally in front of the NBI headquarters, calling for swift justice for slain ROTC cadet Mark Chua. ERIK ARAZAS

Triumphant Pinoy artists hailed



LADINE Roxas gets welcome kisses from James Dy (left) and OWWA administrator Bebong Soriano during her arrival yesterday morning at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. ROGER MARGALLO

By TJ Burgonio

TWO Filipinos, who won the top awards in the Voice of Asia 2001 Song Festival in Almaty, Kazakhstan, returned to a hero's welcome at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

Homegrown singer Ladine Roxas bagged the grand prize as best singer for her song "Where There Is Love," while multi-awarded songwriter Vehnee Saturno won the best composer award for the same song.

They bested a host of top performing artists from the United States, Europe and Asia.

Roxas and Saturno were hailed upon their arrival.

"They're the true heroes. Their winning performances once again showed that Filipinos are really good in the field of music," said Administrator Wilhelm Soriano of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, who welcomed the pair.

Roxas, an overseas performing artist, took home the $10,000 premium prize and a golden trophy, while Saturno, who also acts as her manager, won $1,000 for his original composition.

Held every year, the Voice of Asia is a friendly competition among singers and songwriters from around the world.

Roxas, 26, a Viva recording artist, and Saturno look forward to joining more contests abroad.

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FBI has a file on Lacson

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson said during interpellation by fellow Sen. Rene Cayetano that he had never been charged in any court in the United States. Neither was he facing investigation by any US law enforcement agency, he said.

"Yeah, right!" an incredulous teenager would react to Lacson's statement. The father of the same teenager would say, "Oh, yeah?"

Yes, Mr. Senator, you've been caught lying again!

***

A website of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) says that Lacson has a pending case, 99-72078-34.

Here's how the file reads on the computer screen:

Case Number: 99-72078-34
Name: Lacson, Panfilo M
State of Birth: PH *(apparently short for Philippines—RT)*
Year of Birth: 1948

***

In the same website was the name of Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Lacson's favorite officer at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Aquino's case number was listed as 99-71223-71.

Now, Mr. Senator, how can you explain having a case with the FBI? Don't tell me the case is for solicitation.

***

Lacson has admitted that he went to Hong Kong a day after he apparently learned that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) was hot on the trail of his wealth stashed away in some banks in the former British Crown Colony.

Lacson, according to Isafp chief Victor Corpus, was in Hong Kong from July 26 to 28 to empty his alleged multimillion-dollar accounts held in Citibank.

Apparently, somebody in the bank had tipped off the senator about the investigation of his hidden bank deposits.

***

Lacson gave a very lame excuse for being in Hong Kong from July 26-28, 2001. He said he was investigating a report that a government official was linked to a recent payoff.

His exact words: "I admit I was in Hong Kong with my staff to follow up operations involving an official of overnment linked to a recent pay-off."

He said he was there to "conduct accounts of a certain official in the (Macapagal) Cabinet."

Horse manure!

***

Why would he, a newly elected senator, bother to personally investigate alleged money-laundering by an official in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration?

Lacson is no longer a policeman. Why couldn't he have given the tipoff to his former subordinates at the Philippine National Police (PNP)? The former chief of the Gestapo-type and Mafia-type PAOCTF still has many supporters within the PNP.

When he was in Hong Kong, that was the time the 12th Congress opened. He had already been sworn in as senator.

Mr. Senator, can't you give a better excuse for being in Hong Kong on those dates?

***

What's wrong with Lacson is that he thinks all Filipinos are stupid. He thinks that they believe everything he tells them, even if his statements are incredible.

Look at the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case. He has consistently maintained that the 11 bank robbery suspects were killed in a shootout with his people at the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission even if investigations showed the contrary.

Mr. Senator, there's a saying that you can fool some people most of the time, but you cannot fool all people all the time.

***

Senator Lacson has been asked by a National Police Commission (Napolcom) official, retired cop Rogelio Pureza, for a complete accounting of 480 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) seized by the police in Pangasinan last year.

The big drug haul, Pureza said, was burned under questionable circumstances.

A PNP officer told me that when the 480 kilos of shabu, worth about P800 million, was taken to Camp Crame for safekeeping, it was already half its original weight. While in transit, Lacson's men, the PNP officer said, divided the loot among themselves.

The shabu that was pilfered in transit ended up in the streets, the police officer said.

***

A part of the seized shabu probably ended up with Jude Estrada, the former president's youngest child by Loi Ejercito, according to the same PNP officer.

If memory serves, when Erap was still the vice president and head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC), Jude beat up a woman named Espanola, a notorious drug pusher.

The reason? Espanola allegedly did not remit drug money to Jude Estrada.

That was big news at that time. But things hushed up after Jude was sent to the United States, obviously to cool off. Jude came back after Erap was elected president.

The alleged drug trafficker was even appointed captain of the Philippine Air Force.

Only in the Philippines!

Good news, 68 trees are saved

By Cynthia D. Balana

ONLY God can make a tree. But Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Heherson Alvarez has moved to save 68 of them from being cut.

Alvarez disapproved a request from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to extend anew an amended Special Tree Cutting/Balling Permit to cut these 20-year-old trees to make way for the Quezon Avenue-Edsa Interchange Project in Quezon City.

An officer in charge at the DENR issued the permit on Feb. 20, 2001.

"Metro Manila is ranked among the top 10 most polluted cities in the world so that trees located within the Metropolis are the lungs of the city, providing a cleansing system for the choking smog we all face daily," Alvarez said.

The DPWH is requesting for a renewal of the permit to cut trees to make way for the asphalting of an alternate route for motorists once the excavation work for the interchange begins.

But in a letter to DPWH project manager engineer Patricio Domingo, Alvarez said a DENR field assessment showed that only three of the 71 trees will be affected by diggings and re-routing schemes during the construction of the interchange. The 68 other trees may be balled and transplanted elsewhere.

Alvarez insisted to stand by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) he initiated in March and signed in Malacañang before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, where the DPWH vowed for a "paradigm shift in its thinking to consider environmental factors in the Department's infrastructure development program."

On Jan. 4, 2001, the DENR issued the original Special Tree Cutting/Balling Permit for the cutting of 186 trees. But only 115 trees were cut leaving 71 trees still standing.

The 71 trees were spared largely through the amended permit issued on Feb. 20 and the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Alvarez, who was then a senator and founding chair of the EarthSavers Movement, pushed for the signing of the MOA between the DENR and DPWH.

Alvarez has issued a permit for the DPWH to cut three of the 71 trees composed of 50- to 90 year-old mahogany trees. The rest are talisay, gemelina, kapok, mango, sampaloc, coconut, duhat, madre de cacao and kalachuchi trees.

The 68 remaining trees will be balled with the 32 new taraw palms to be donated and transplanted at the Manila Memorial Park while the 36 others will be transplanted on vacant spaces at the roadsides and center islands of Quezon Avenue.

Alvarez warned the DPWH against cutting the trees not specified in the permit.

"We will not hesitate to file charges against these people if they insist on cutting trees which may still be saved based on outfield studies," he said.

"Even as we are for development, we cannot allow the ruin of our environment."

He cited Presidential Decree No. 953, which penalizes the unauthorized cutting, destruction, damaging and injuring of certain trees, plants and vegetation.

Violators face a fine of P5,000 or imprisonment of up to five years.

SAVE THE TREE

A CALL from concerned environmentalists to save trees, like this one, has been heeded.

Husband and wife among car thieves

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOUR car thieves, including a husband-and-wife tandem, were arrested after a shootout early this week, the Central Police District (CPD) announced yesterday.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director, identified the suspects as Ferminin L. Encabo, 34, of San Simon Dasmariñas, Cavite City; Reynaldo G. Antonio, 35, of Kulayco Street, Pasay City; and couple Job and Analiza Fernandez.

The Fernandez couple was arrested Monday after a brief firefight at their house in 127 Senatorial St. Sitio Talanay, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Tor said.

Police recovered from the two a stolen white Toyota Corolla sedan (with plate number USL 219), an M-16 rifle; two plastic sachets of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), and assorted drug paraphernalia, Tor added.

He said the couple had been charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office with car theft, illegal possession of firearms, possession of illegal drugs, and direct assault on a person of authority.

The two would have to pay a total of P564,000 as bail for their temporary liberty, Tor added.

Meanwhile, Encabo and Antonio were nabbed after policemen caught them red-handed trying to force open a car around 2:30 a.m. on Monday along Boni Serrano Street in Quezon City, said Supt. David Benavides Jr., CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit chief.

They are believed to be members of a Cavite-based carnapping syndicate that operates in Quezon City, Manila, and surrounding areas, Benavides added.

Due to the arrest of the two suspects, police were able to recover a stolen jeep (VAL-677) in Dasmariñas, Cavite; a Toyota Lite Ace (THE-745) in Trece Martirez, Cavite; and a Toyota Corona (NJL-629) in Bacoor, Cavite.

Investigators found out that the suspects' own car was stolen from a certain Rowena Alina in Las Piñas, Benavides said.

The two had also been charged with car theft with the fiscal setting their bail at P184,000 each.

ANGRY VICTIM EDWIN BACASMAS

Kidnap victim Mona Pomanay is pacified by police officers as she struggles to get back at her abductors who were presented to media yesterday.

'Sumpak' suppliers fall

POLICE on Thursday arrested two suspected gunrunners supposedly supplying improvised shotguns to street gangs in Caloocan City.

Suspects Juanito de Guzman, 36, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan, and Rhoel Mercado, 33, of Tondo, Manila were arrested during a buy-bust operation about 11 p.m. in Caloocan.

A team led by SPO2 Gaudencion Domingo recovered at least two homemade shotguns and live ammunition, said case investigator PO2 Aristotle de Guzman.

Police also found marijuana and shabu placed in several plastic sachets and drug paraphernalia like aluminum foil, lighters, and tooters.

Investigation showed that the suspects supplied homemade shotguns or "sumpak" to several street gangs in Caloocan, including the dreaded "Bulabog Boys."

The suspects are facing charges of illegal possession of firearms, ammunition, and prohibited drugs before the city prosecutor's office. *Christian Esguerra*

Abalos stuns JV Ejercito

By Agnes Donato

SAN Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito was supposed to be at war with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

But on Thursday, the young town executive was surprised when MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos paid him a visit at his residence.

Ejercito was at a loss for words when Abalos offered help in solving the trash problem in San Juan.

The MMDA head also told the mayor that the town could temporarily dump its garbage at the transfer stations in Las Piñas and Bacoor.

Ejercito earlier complained that the MMDA has refused to take in San Juan garbage, accusing Abalos of treating "personally" his call for the abolition of the MMDA.

But Abalos denied this, saying he held no grudge against the son of former President Joseph Estrada.

Abalos was among those who helped oust Estrada in a four-day uprising in January at the Edsa Shrine.

"They (Ejercito's family) were so surprised to see me there," Abalos said. "I went there to show that the MMDA is not turning its back on any local government which needs help."

The chair said he had assumed all along that Ejercito wanted to manage his municipality by himself and wanted no help from the current administration.

"I respect his position because I understand how he feels," Abalos said.

Ejercito earlier called for the abolition of the MMDA because of its alleged failure in providing a dumpsite for Metro Manila garbage.

He also claimed he could not see any efforts from the current MMDA chair to solve the garbage crisis.

But Abalos refuted this by asking the young mayor to attend MMDA meetings so he would know what the agency has been doing.

Abalos also said that his and Ejercito's discussion were confined to finding solution to the garbage problem.

"As you know, it is the local government which is in charge of its own garbage. But let us keep politics aside. It is now time to help each other out to address the garbage problem not only in San Juan but in the whole Metro Manila," Abalos said.

The Inquirer tried to reach Ejercito for his comment, but he failed to return calls.

Hit with beer bottle, he killed his friend, so he draws 16 years

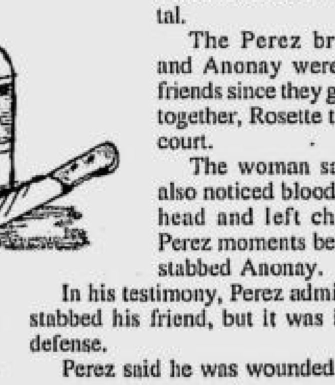
By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ELECTRICIAN has been sentenced to 16 years in prison for killing a friend who had hit him with a beer bottle during a party in Caloocan City last year.

Judge Bayani Rivera found guilty Feliciano Perez, 30, a resident of Libis Talisay, Caloocan. Perez stabbed dead house painter Ranillo Anonay, 35, on Jan. 16, 2000.

Judge Rivera also ordered the arrest of Perez's brother Tolentino for allegedly taking part in Anonay's killing.

The court ordered Perez to pay the victim's family P121,354 in damages.



Anonay was sitting in front of his house in Libis Talisay about 8:45 p.m. when Perez, accompanied by his brother, arrived, said Rosette Anonay, the victim's live-in partner.

The brothers held the victim by the neck and stabbed him on the chest. When both Anonay and Perez fell to the ground, Tolentino allegedly asked his brother to continue stabbing the victim, Rosette said.

Anonay did not make it alive to the Caloocan General Hospital.

The Perez brothers and Anonay were close friends since they grew up together, Rosette told the court.

The woman said she also noticed blood on the head and left cheek of Perez moments before he stabbed Anonay.

In his testimony, Perez admitted he stabbed his friend, but it was in self-defense.

Perez said he was wounded on the head after Anonay hit him with a beer bottle while he was singing in a videoke bar during a baptismal party near Libis Talisay.

The victim, who was allegedly drunk, apparently did not like the way Perez was singing.

Later, Perez said he and his brother went to the victim's house to amicably settle the problem.

But Perez said the victim hit him instead with a wooden club and tried to stab him.

Perez said he was able to wrest the knife from Anonay and used it on his friend.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 11, 2001
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Dt 6:4-13*
Gospel:	*Mt 17:14-20*

A man approached Jesus, knelt before him and said, "Sir, have pity on my son who is an epileptic and is in a wretched state. He has often fallen into the fire and at other times into the water. I brought him to your disciples but they could not heal him."

Jesus replied, "You, faithless and evil people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus commanded the evil spirit to leave the boy, and the boy was immediately healed.

The disciples then gathered around Jesus and asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out the spirit?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have little faith. I say to you: if only you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could tell that mountain to move from here to there, and the mountain would obey. Nothing would be impossible to you."

Commentary:

Today's reading portrays Jesus' disciples before the resurrection as earnest but fallible people. Because of lack of faith they were unable to perform a healing. In other words, they were unable to transmit God's life giving power. As a good teacher, Jesus is disappointed when he sees that even his disciples still don't know how to handle faith effectively to the benefit of another human being. He does not deny the faith of his disciples, but notices that it is not yet strong enough. After the healing of the person, He introduces his disciples, in private, to the real power of faith. The reading serves as an encouragement to develop faith further. This process of learning has to go on even after the resurrection.

Father in heaven, we acknowledge that in many situations of life we lack faith. Teach us to grow in faith and to conduct ourselves as your children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Commonality of design and purpose in conspiracy—There is conspiracy where, at the time the malefactors were committing the crime, their actions impliedly showed a unity of purpose among them, a concerted effort to bring about the death of the victim. Conspiracy, to be the basis for a conviction, should be proved as clearly and convincingly as the commission of the crime itself. No less than proof beyond reasonable doubt is required, for conspiracy is not the produce of negligence but intention on the part of the cohorts. In the absence of any evidence that accused-appellant conspired with the assailants, conspiracy cannot be attributed against him for, in criminal cases, it is incumbent upon the prosecution to establish its case with that degree of proof which produces conviction in an unprejudiced mind, with evidence which stands or falls on its merits, and which cannot be allowed to draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the defense. Unless it discharges the burden of proving the guilty of the accused beyond reasonable doubt, the latter need not even offer evidence in his behalf. Thus, when the guilt of the accused has not been proven with moral certainty, such as the case at bar, it is the policy of long standing that the presumption of innocence of the accused must be favored and his exoneration be granted as a matter of right. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Buena, Second Division, People v. Dindo, G.R. No. 129305, January 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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1	DUDURUGIN KO...
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	CLOSED
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	RED DIARIES
7	THE ANIMAL
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	RADYO
10	CLOSED
11	CATS & DOGS
12	RED DIARIES

SM CITY MANILA 5238240

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	CATS & DOGS
4	THE ANIMAL
5	DUDURUGIN KO...
6	THE ANIMAL
7	DUDURUGIN KO...
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	RADYO
10	TOMCATS
11	RED DIARIES
12	KISS OF THE DRAGON

SM MEGAMALL 6331001 • 6328401

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	CATS & DOGS
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	RED DIARIES
9	RADYO
10	KISS OF THE DRAGON
11	SWORDFISH
12	DUDURUGIN KO...

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RED DIARIES
4	RADYO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9205452

1	DUDURUGIN KO...
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	RADYO
4	RED DIARIES
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6	THE ANIMAL
7	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8	MOULIN ROUGE
9	SWORDFISH
10	RADYO
11	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
12	CATS & DOGS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066868

1	CATS & DOGS
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7	RADYO
8	JURASSIC PARK 3
9	RED DIARIES
10	KISS OF THE DRAGON

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820985

1	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RADYO

SM CEBU 2313676

1	DRIVEN
2	CATS & DOGS
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	RED DIARIES
7	MOULIN ROUGE

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
2	CLOSED
3	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	MOULIN ROUGE
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	TOMCATS
7	CLOSED
8	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	CATS & DOGS
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	RED DIARIES
5	TOMCATS
6	RADYO

SM SUCAT 8294075

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RADYO
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

GLORIETTA 4

1	MOULIN ROUGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE TAO OF STEVE (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	CATS & DOGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE ANIMAL in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	JURASSIC PARK 3 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MOULIN ROUGE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE ANIMAL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG 23 TO 25 9PM Onstage

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1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE ANIMAL in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MOULIN ROUGE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CATS & DOGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	FINAL FANTASY
2 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
3 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4 GOLD (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8 [illegible]	RED DIARIES
9 [illegible]	RADYO
10 [illegible]	CATS & DOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	SPOT
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	DUDURUGIN KO...
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	RADYO
2	THE ANIMAL
3	DUDURUGIN KO...

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	THE ANIMAL
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	DUDURUGIN KO...
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	RED DIARIES

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RED DIARIES
4	RADYO
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7	THE ANIMAL
8	DUDURUGIN KO...

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK 3

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	LA FAME EROTIQUE
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
A	INDECENT BEHAVIOR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	NIGHT JOB
4	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RED DIARIES
5	CATS & DOGS
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
9 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RADYO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	RADYO
2	RED DIARIES
3	RADYO
4 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
5	RED DIARIES
6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7 (DTS)	DUDURUGIN KO...
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK
2	RED DIARIES
3	DUDURUGIN KO...
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
6	RADYO
7 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	RED DIARIES
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	DUDURUGIN KO...
5 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RADYO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DUDURUGIN KO...

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	RED DIARIES
Lords	RED DIARIES
Jennet	DUDURUGIN KO...

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	THE ANIMAL
3	RESERVE
4	RED DIARIES

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	DUDURUGIN KO...

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	RED DIARIES
3	THE ANIMAL
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	DUDURUGIN KO...

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	DUDURUGIN KO...
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	THE ANIMAL

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
2	THE ANIMAL
3	DUDURUGIN KO...

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	RADYO
2	DUDURUGIN KO...

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	DUDURUGIN KO...
3	RADYO
4	THE ANIMAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	THE ANIMAL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CATS & DOGS
2 (DTS)	RADYO
3 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	THE ANIMAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	RADYO
2 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
3 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4	CATS & DOGS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
2	DUDURUGIN KO...
3	RED DIARIES
4 (DTS)	9 ½ WEEKS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	RADYO
2	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
3	THE ANIMAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	RADYO
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	THE ANIMAL

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TRAFFIC
2	CATS & DOGS
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
2	RADYO
3	RED DIARIES

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	CATS & DOGS
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	MOULIN ROUGE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	DRIVEN
3	DR. T & THE WOMEN
4 (DTS EX)	CATS & DOGS

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	THE ANIMAL
6	THE ANIMAL
7	RED DIARIES
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
9	RADYO
10	MOULIN ROUGE

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	CATS & DOGS
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	RADYO
5	RED DIARIES
6	THE ANIMAL
7	KISS OF THE DRAGON

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	THE ANIMAL
3	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	RED DIARIES
6	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
7	CATS & DOGS
8	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RADYO
3	THE ANIMAL
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	RED DIARIES

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	DRIVEN
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	TOM CATS
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
6	DR. DOLITTLE

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RED DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ANIMAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GATAS / TEMPTATION NIGHT
ODEON	RADYO
ODEON-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ROBEN	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	TRAFFIC / CAST AWAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
QUEZON-1	AMORSEKO
REMAR	RADYO
REMAR-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-15	RADYO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-4	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	UNDER COVER ANGEL
CINEMA-2	SUGAT SA PURI
CINEMA-4	WARAY

Pasay official in graft mess flees to US

By Nelson Flores

"IF FLIGHT means guilt, maybe they are guilty."

Rey Evangelista, spokesperson of the Crusaders for Good Governance of Pasay City, made this statement on Friday after he learned that Business Permit and Licensing Office chief Amelita Dela Cruz and her husband Cresenciano Dela Cruz left the country following reports on their alleged involvement with a syndicate engaged in fraudulent issuance of business permits.

Evangelista said they learned of the couple's flight after Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad assigned a new business and licensing officer.

Evangelista said Trinidad designated Edith Napalan last July 31 as the temporary chief of the city's BPLO shortly after Ms Dela Cruz filed a leave of absence late last month. He added that the Dela Cruz couple reportedly went to the United States for medical treatment.

"But my sources said the couple went out of the country for good," Evangelista said.

Earlier, the National Bureau of Investigation has filed criminal charges against Mr. Dela Cruz and Leo Francisco, a known fixer and suspected member of a syndicate engaged in large-scale fraud involving the issuance of government business permits in Pasay City. They were charged before the local city Prosecutors Office with indirect bribery and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act of the Philippines.

Lawyer Elfren Meneses, NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division chief, said the suspects were the subject of a complaint lodge in his office by businessman Edgardo Zapanta. He added that an entrapment operation was immediately commenced following the complaint, which resulted in the arrest of Francisco.

Meneses said Francisco was caught in the act of accepting a P2,000 bribe from Zapanta at the office of Ms Dela Cruz last July 25. He said the Dela Cruz couple was not present at the time of the arrest.

In his complaint, Zapanta alleged that Dela Cruz demanded P2,000 grease money from him when he applied for a business permit last July 9. He said that the bribe money, which is on top of the regular fee of P5,600, is reportedly "for the boys" and the immediate processing of his application.

Zapanta claimed that he was able to persuade Dela Cruz to accept the payment for the regular fee and just allow him to send the grease money later. But Zapanta immediately reported the matter to the NBI, which led to the arrest of Francisco.

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Colin Firth
Hugh Grant
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6:55 PM
9:05 PM

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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Makati rallies residents vs dengue

MAKATI Health Department Chief Dra. Ma. Lourdes Salud yesterday announced that the "4 o'clock habit" is being observed successfully by Makati City residents.

Salud was referring to the campaign launched by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay recently who asked residents to regularly clean water puddles and other possible breeding places of mosquitoes in their respective surroundings.

"It is about that time of the day when mosquitoes lay their eggs," Salud explained.

Salud credited the success of the drive to an aggressive and exhaustive information campaign in the barangay and neighborhood level.

She cited the lectures given by the Makati Health Department to all public school students and residents, as well as text and e-mail messaging by their personnel, as the main factors for their success.

Salud added that the text message going around urging residents to be extra careful from 6-8 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. is fairly accurate.

"These times were the most critical, although she extended the period to cover the 4-6 p.m. slot as well. These were the times when the dengue-carrying aedes egypti mosquitoes are most active," she explained.

Likewise, she announced that the "larvitrap," a simple, home-made device that kills mosquito larvae (or kiti-kiti), has been installed by the residents in different parts of Makati.

She advised those interested in finding out more about the device to get in touch with the Center for Health Development of the Department of Health, or with the Makati Health Department itself.

Japanese drugged

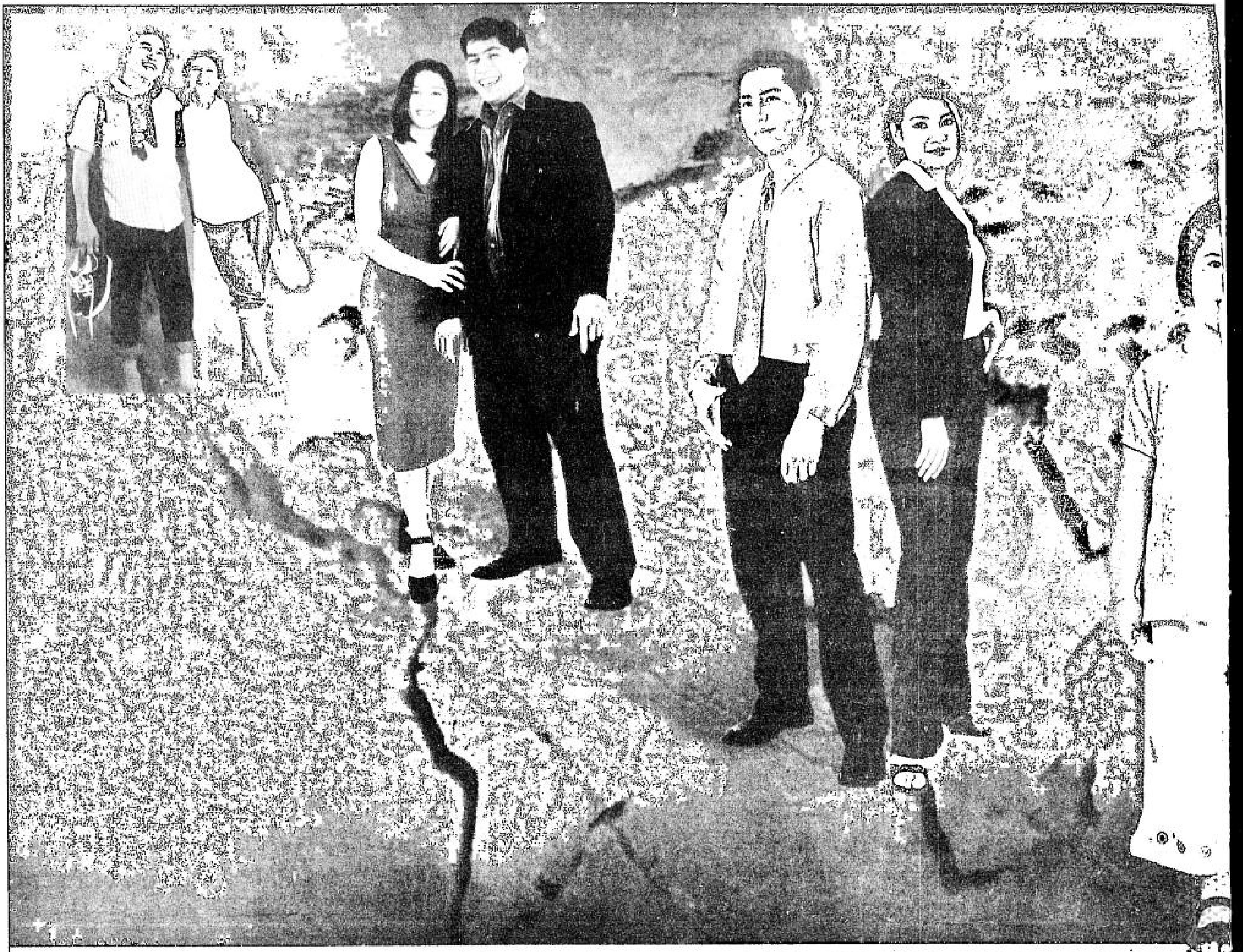
A 23-YEAR-OLD Japanese tourist lost about P20,000 cash to three persons who offered him a joy ride in Ermita, Manila and then drugged him during the trip.

Victim Naoki Fukaya, single, a native of Tokyo and temporarily billeted at the Santos Pension House on A. Mabini Street, Ermita, only felt well enough yesterday morning and reported the incident to the city police's general assignments section.

Fukaya told GAS investigator SPO1 Mario Salonga that he was walking along Padre Faura Street in Ermita around 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 when he was approached and befriended by the suspects—a man about 40 years old, a woman in her late 20s and a teenage girl.

The tourist said the trio invited him to their car for a joy ride in Makati City and he readily agreed, charmed by the suspects' friendliness and hospitality.

Fukaya recounted that the girl gave him a sandwhich and fruit juice. He said he felt dizzy and became unconscious after consuming the food. *Jerome Aning*



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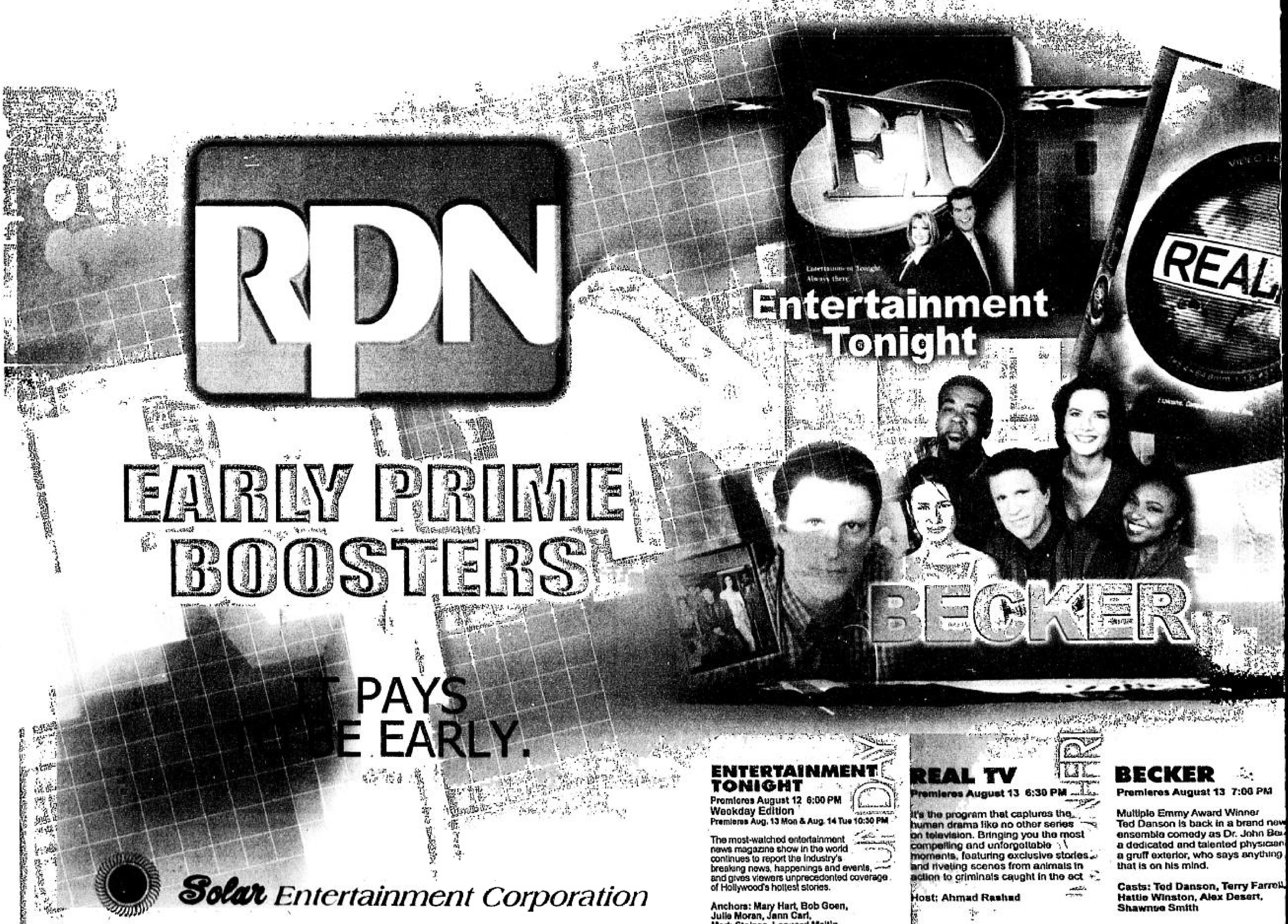

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Female robber slits woman victim's throat

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FEMALE pharmacist nearly lost her life Thursday morning when a female robber slit her throat during a heist in Malabon, police said.

Suspect Edna Batac, 26, attacked Hazel Profogo, 22, said to be a pharmacist of Mercury Drug and a resident of Valenzuela City, inside a jeepney about 6 a.m., police said.

Profogo was on her way home on board an Acacia-bound jeepney when the suspect, armed with a 9-inch cutter, held up its passengers, police said.

Batac announced the robbery when the jeepney reached a public market on Gov. Pascual Avenue, said PO2 Christopher Rodriguez and PO1 George Gabatin.

When Profogo refused to yield her bag, Batac slashed her throat with the cutter, police said.

Batac tried to escape, but jeepney driver Victor Santos caught her after a brief foot chase.

Santos turned over Batac to the Malabon Police. The suspect is facing robbery with physical injury charges before the city prosecutor's office.

Valenzuela cop's slay case stalled

THE WIFE of slain Valenzuela deputy police chief Supt. Eugenio Casalme has appealed to witnesses to come out and help prosecute her husband's killers.

Quoting investigators, Evangeline Casalme, 50, said on Friday that police could not file criminal charges against the suspected killers for lack of witnesses.

Case investigator SPO1 Jess Saguisi said two alleged members of the Pampanga Police could have killed Casalme while he was on a bus on May 23.

But more than two months have gone by since the killing and police have yet to file robbery with homicide charges against the suspects before the Valenzuela City Prosecutor's Office.

Two different witnesses have identified the suspects in a police photo gallery, Saguisi said. But police are still looking for more witnesses to corroborate their testimonies.

Saguisi said two of the four original witnesses to Casalme's slaying had disappeared for fear that the suspects might get back at them.

He said they were afraid because they usually took the bus going to work in Manila.

Casalme, a police officer for 28 years, was on a bus on his way to his house in Angeles City, Pampanga, when robbers armed with a grenade, a handgun and a knife held up the bus. The suspects shot Casalme in the chest and neck after they found out he was a policeman.

Casalme died before he could reach the Jose Lingad Hospital in Pampanga. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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LEVEL 9
Arli$$
That's Life
CLUELESS

ARLISS
Premieres August 13 7:30 PM
A new tv series that tells a chapter in the life of Arliss Michaels (Robert Wuhl), a super-agent who constantly flirts with disaster as he squeezes maximum profits from the glory of sports.
Casts: Robert Wuhl, Jim Turner, Sandra Oh

ED
Premieres August 14 7:00 PM
From the producers of The Late Show with David Letterman, this one-hour dramady centers on Ed Stevens (Thomas Cavanagh), a former New York lawyer who, after being fired and catching his wife cheating on him, decides to return to his hometown of Stuckeyville
Casts: Thomas Cavanagh, Julie Bowen, Jana Marie Hupp, Josh Randall, Lesley Boone

LEVEL 9
Premieres August 15 7:00 PM
Level 9, an elite cyber crime-fighting force takes on cases conventional law enforcement can't handle.Cyber-agents to hunt down cyber criminals! Now, for the first time, television audiences will enter the farthest reaches of the Internet in this new action thriller.
Casts: Max Martin, Fabrizio Filippo, Kate Hodge, Romany Malco, Michael Kelly, Susie Park, Esteban Powel, Kim Murphy

CLUELESS
Premieres August 16 7:00 PM
Inspired by the smash 1995 film, Clueless satirizes the Beverly Hills lifestyle and the parodies the hyper high school existence from the valiant viewpoint of the totally cheerful, charming and caring Cher (Rachel Blanchard)
Casts: Rachel Blanchard, Stacey Dash, Donald Adeosun Faison, Elisa Donovan, Sean Holland

THAT'S LIFE
Premieres August 17 7:00 PM
Television's newest darling Heather Paige Kent is Lydia DeLucca in a lighthearted dramady about a 32-year-old feisty bartender who dumps her fiancé and goes to college. Now Lydia must contend with her intimidating professor and convince her family that she can handle her own life.
Casts: Heather Paige Kent, Ellen Burstyn, Paul Sorvino, Kristin Bauer, Debi Mazar, Kevin Dillon

STAR TREK:
The Next Generation
Premieres August 18 6:00 PM
Gene Roddenberry's hit series continues to go where no series has gone before: to new heights with critics and audiences alike. The Starship Enterprise flies through the galaxy on a journey packed with excitement, adventure, imagination and all the wonders of 24th century.
Casts: Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis, Brent Spiner, Whoopi Goldberg

Cement factory fined only ₱5,000 for oil spill

By Agnes Donato

A FINE of only P5,000 per day has been imposed on the cement factory that had caused the oil spill in the Teresa-Morong River last Friday, which has destroyed the crops of farmers and affected at least four barangays in Morong, Rizal.

On Friday, an official of the Laguna Lake Development Authority confirmed that the oil spill came from a dilapidated oil storage tank of Fortune Republic in Teresa, Rizal.

Lawyer Teresa Oledan reported that the LLDA had already issued an ex-parte order against the administrators of the cement factory, asking them to explain the cause of the oil spill and why no legal action should be taken against them.

The fine imposed on the factory is the maximum penalty that could be imposed under the law, according to Oledan.

The count would start from the first day of the spill until the Philippine Coast Guard declares that the river is cleared of oil.

Corazon Padua, pollution control officer of Fortune Republic, has reportedly told the LLDA that the concrete oil storage tank where the oil spill originated was no longer being used and was in fact scheduled for demolition.

Oledan said that according to Padua, the plant had shut down for a month and had only resumed its operations on Aug. 4.

"We were told that the concrete plant could have deteriorated due to the heavy rains, causing the oil stored in it to leak," Oledan said.

Interviews made by the LLDA with local residents also showed that traces of oil have already been observed as early as last Friday.

But the LLDA could not identify until now the exact volume of the bunker oil that spilled into the Teresa-Morong River.

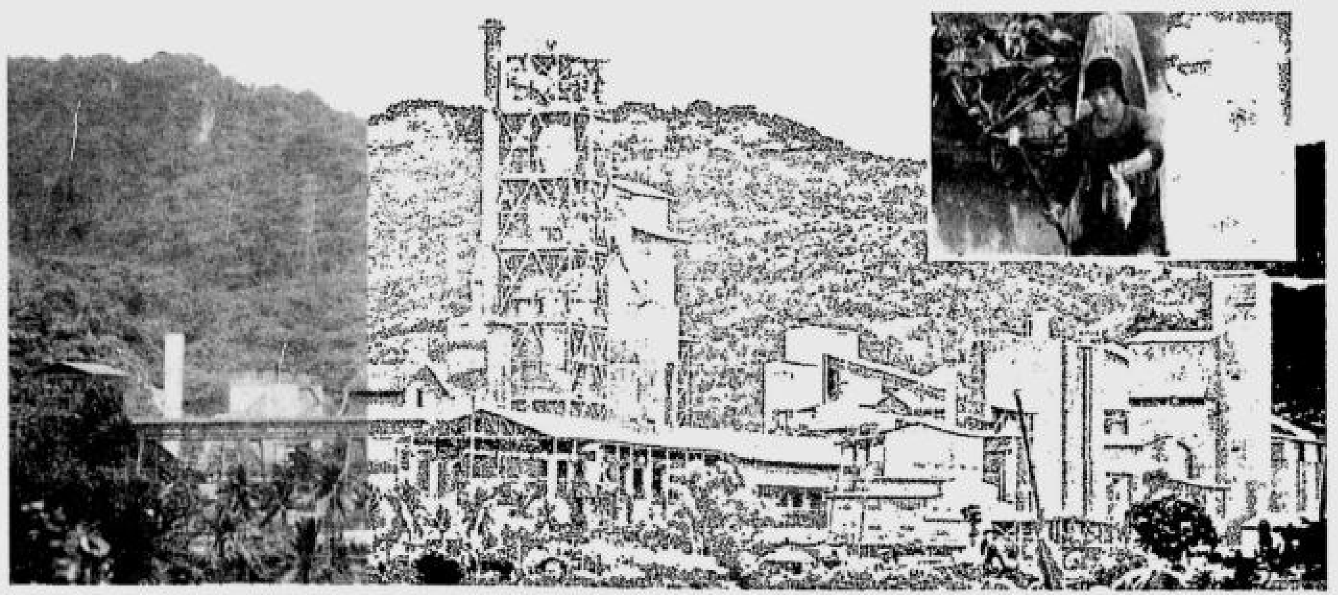
Members of the coast guard have started scooping up the oil from the river in an effort to contain it properly and prevent it from flowing into the Laguna Lake.

"We also advised Fortune Republic Cement to block the canal connecting the plant to the river and they complied by dumping earth soil on it," Oledan said.

"But we also told them that it would only delay the oil from further leaking into the river, not completely stop the seepage. What needs to be done here is to repair the concrete tank itself," she added.

Oledan reported that oil film had already been observed in the nearby Wawa River, which is at the mouth of the Laguna Lake.

But she assured that the lake itself was safe from the oil spill.



THE FORTUNE Republic Cement plant and the effect of the poison it spilled in the Morong River (inset). EDWIN BACASMAS

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Loyal bank client wins her case

MARCELINA "Nena" Oreta, a long-time depositor of Prudential Bank and Trust Company's Greenhills branch, has realized that being a loyal client for more than forty years was no guarantee that she would receive special treatment from the bank.

After discovering that her signature on a number of her personal checks had been forged, and that the checks were surprisingly honored by Prudential, Oreta, 88, looked into her previous transactions and found that more than sixty of her personal checks did not bear her genuine signature.

Despite the obvious forgery, the bank accepted the checks for deposit and even allowed the encashment of some of these checks.

Failing to get any cooperation from Prudential, she filed a case against the bank before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

The court ruled in favor of Oreta.

In his decision, Judge Rodrigo B. Lorenzo rejected the defense of the bank that it exercised due diligence in handling the depositor's account.

"We hold that banking business is so impressed with public interest where the trust and confidence of the public in general is paramount such that the appropriate standard of diligence must be a high degree of diligence, if not utmost diligence," Judge Lorenzo said citing a Supreme Court ruling.

Lorenzo said the bank could not claim it exercised the diligence required of it.

The Supreme Court recently rejected the bank's appeal and affirmed the decision of the trial court, which awarded actual and moral damages and attorney's fees.

"I feel betrayed that the bank which I had entrusted with my and my family's money for 40 years turned its back on me and made me fight and endure more than seven years of litigation," Oreta said. "It was clear from the very start that they mishandled my accounts. I'm just glad that I can now put this sad experience behind me."

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

KIRSTEN DUNST
JAY HERNANDEZ
crazy/beautiful

KIRSTEN DUNST AND TEEN MOVIES GROW-UP IN A FILM ABOUT TRUTH, BEAUTY, FREEDOM & LOVE.

Kirsten Dunst, once the talented child star of "Jumanji" and "Interview with a Vampire", showcases her acting prowess in her first serious adult role as she teams up with charismatic newcomer Jay Hernandez in a sexy and provocative teen drama.

In this powerfully emotional touching love story, Nicole Oakley (Kirston) is a rich, white high school senior rebelling against her father. She meets and falls in love with Carlos Nunez (Jay) a responsible straight-A Latino jock from the wrong side of town. Together they experience the maddening yet healing intensity of first love.

When it's real. When it's right. Risk everything. Break the rules. Be witness to the true beauty of love. CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL OPENS IN MANILA CINEMAS ON AUG. 22.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE PRODUCING TEAM OF 'BIG DADDY' DELIVERS ANOTHER WINNER!
"THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SUMMER!" SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV
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Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

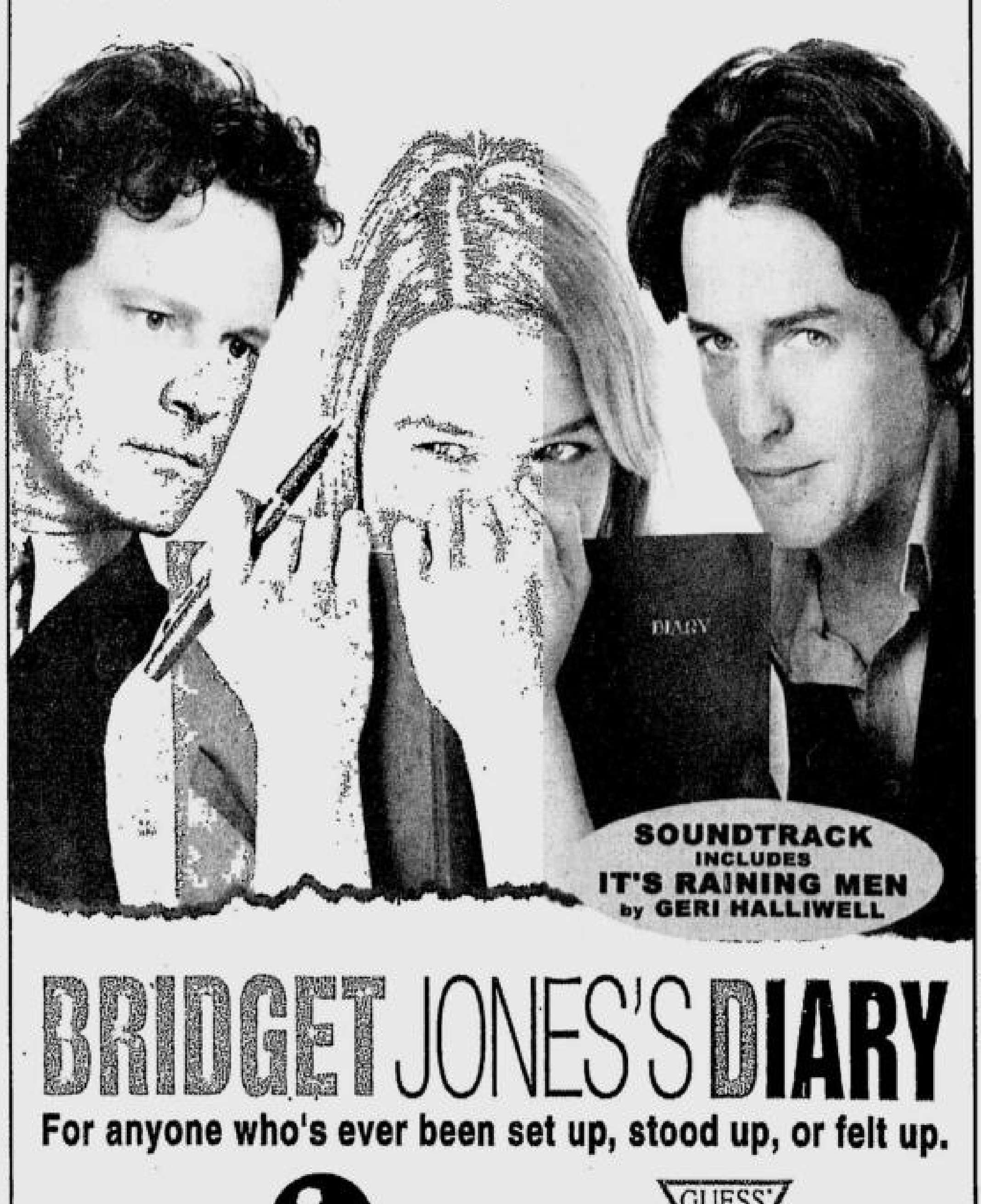
But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

NOW SHOWING AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

The film contains language which young audiences may find disturbing.
Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.

Renée Zellweger Hugh Grant Colin Firth


DIARY
SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES IT'S RAINING MEN by GERI HALLIWELL

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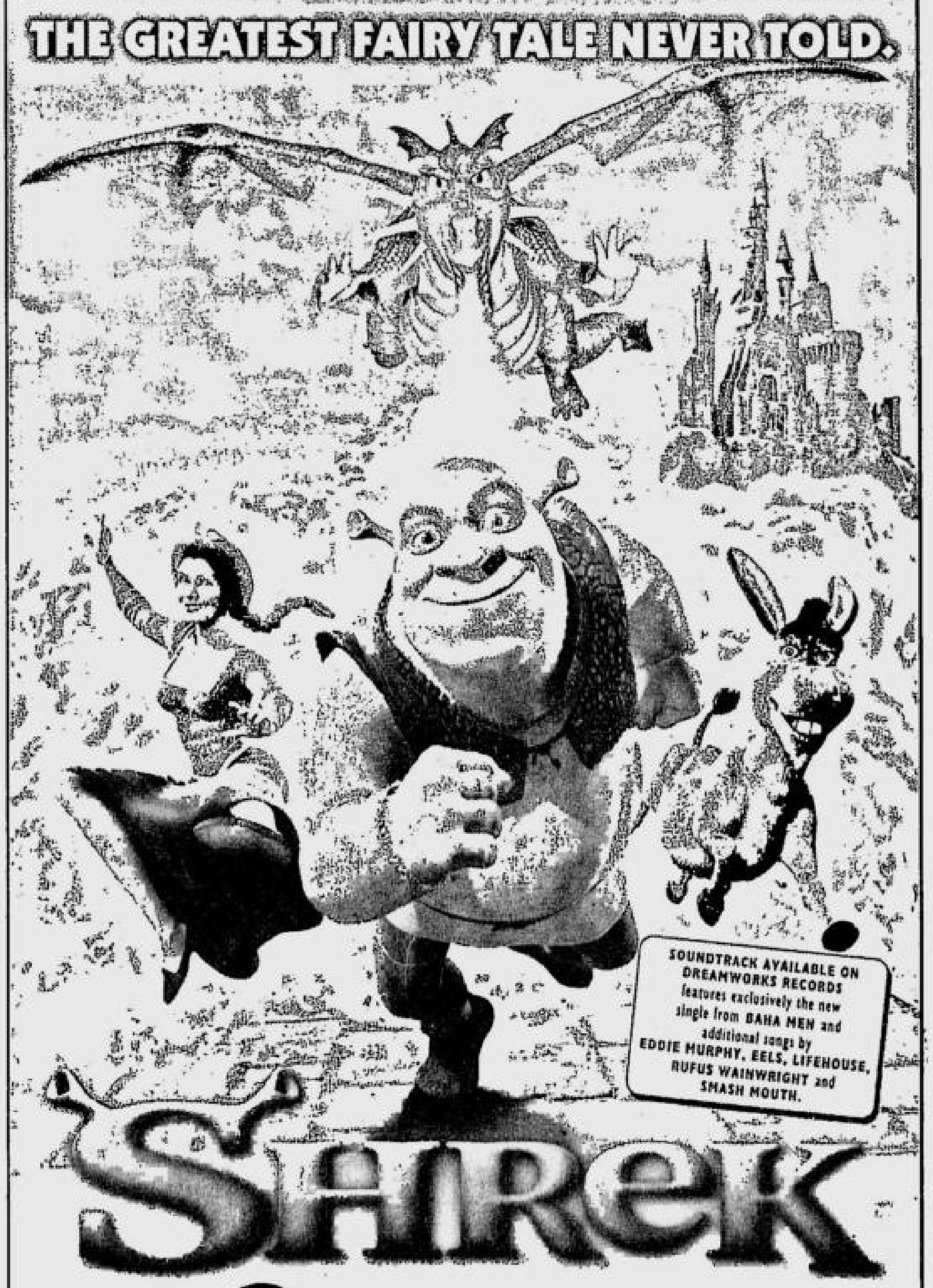
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON DREAMWORKS RECORDS features exclusively the new single from BAHA MEN and additional songs by EDDIE MURPHY, EELS, LIFEHOUSE, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT and SMASH MOUTH.
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OPENS AUGUST 22!

Pepsi avoids face-off with Coalition 349

THE BATTLE of a Filipino consumers' group against Pepsi Cola suffered a setback after counsels of the soft drink firm opposed the decision of Judge Jose Caoibes Jr. of Branch 253 of the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court for approving the entry of Coalition 349 in the class suit for a sum of money.

Lawyer Camilo Sabio, Coalition 349 counsel, filed the motion for intervention of the Coalition 349 for thousands of members nationwide in June 2000.

The same was approved last month by Judge Caoibes, but Pepsi lawyers opposed the entry and intervention of Coalition 349, which has thousands of claimants all over the Philippines under its corporate umbrella.

Pepsi lawyers preferred that all the 349 claimants file their claims separately before the court, which would mean that every 349 member must pay the filing fees as required by court proceedings.

Vic del Fierro Jr., Coaliton president, said the Philippine class action case was filed in 1998 and has been delayed due to the litany of technical questions on procedures raised by Pepsi lawyers.

"It is very evident that Pepsi is evading a face-off confrontation with the Coalition 349 before the court in the final resolution of the 349 claims, the payment of which could be an economic bonanza for the thousands of poor consumers, duped and deceived by the Pepsi promotions in 1992," Del Fierro said.

He said that Senate Report No. 190 made by the trade committee under then Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is the bedrock of the Coalition 349 legal battle against Pepsi since it upheld the validity of the consumers' claims after concluding that "Pepsi is guilty of gross negligence and deceptive advertising."

2 traffic officials behind illegal towing in Caloocan

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO LOCAL traffic officials could be behind the illegal towing operations in Caloocan, said OIC Mayor Rey Malonzo on Friday when he suspended towing in the city.

Malonzo made the move after receiving complaints against abusive tow operators who appear to have towed vehicles even without clear violations.

Some vehicles, Malonzo said, were towed even with their drivers inside.

Reports showed that abusive towing activities were prevalent on Edsa in front of Max's Restaurant and on C-R Road, Malonzo said.

He ordered police to coordinate with the local government any towing activity.

The crackdown on abusive towing is expected to help ease the perennial traffic problem in Caloocan, Malonzo said.

Many of the city's major thoroughfares are allegedly cluttered with jaywalkers, abusive traffic officers, and undisciplined drivers.

The entire stretch of the Rizal Avenue Extension from Gotesco Grand Central to 10th Avenue is usually congested despite numerous traffic signs and policemen.

Commuters have complained that taxis and jeepneys are usually allowed to load and unload passengers in restricted areas as long as they pay traffic officers a certain amount.

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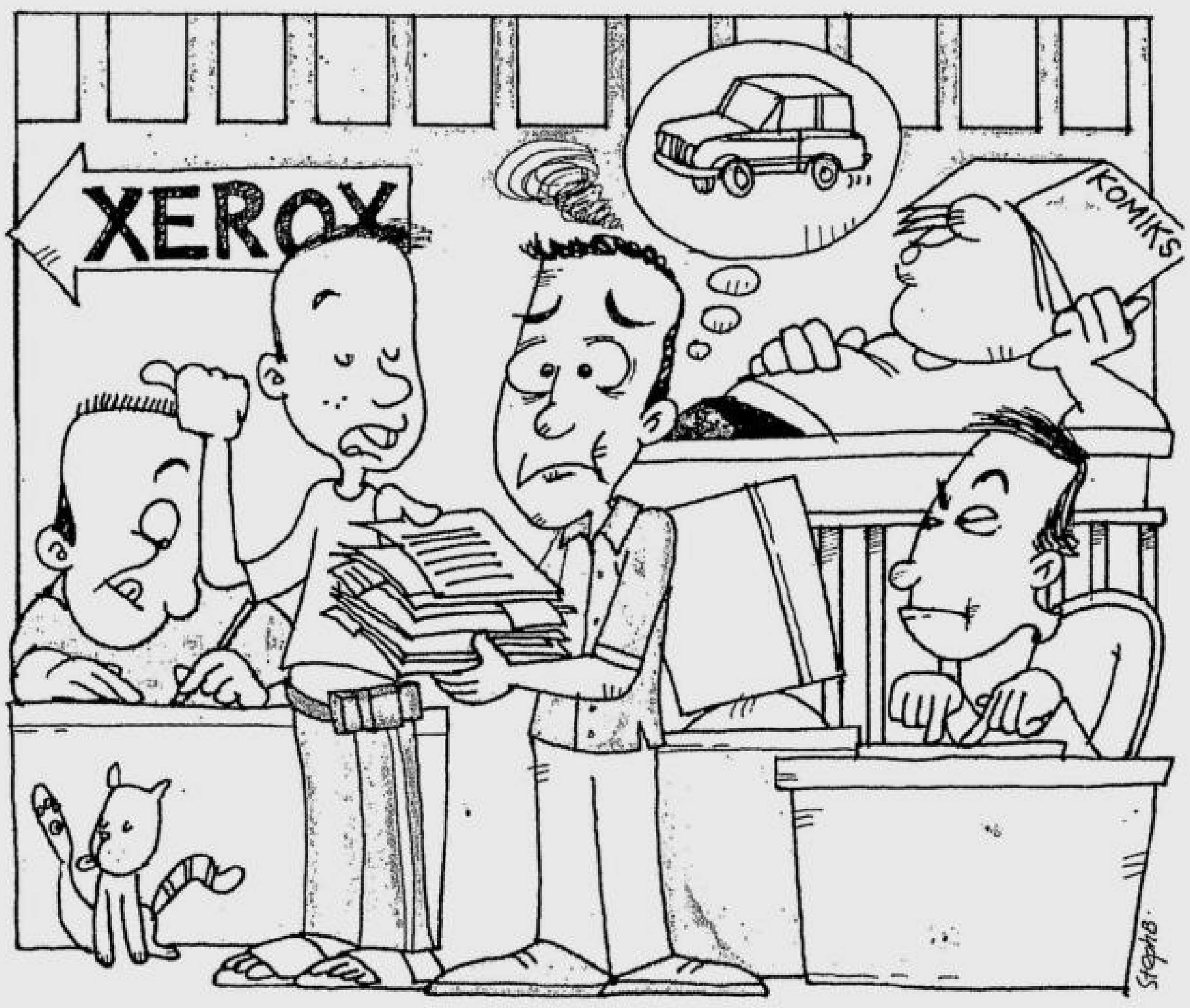
KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	THE ANIMAL - P 13 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
CATS & DOGS - GP 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

The trauma of reporting crime

By Jose G. Burgos Jr.



FIRST, the good news: Only one motor vehicle was reported stolen in Quezon City last Sunday, Aug. 5.

Now, the bad news: The newest solitary statistic filed on the robbery index for that day is my own vehicle, a Toyota Tamaraw FX (UNY 551), painted dirty white with side designs. It had been a trusty, dusty, dented family service wagon for the past four years — well, until late Sunday afternoon when it fell prey to a carnap ring said to be operating in Quezon City.

Add to this personal loss the trauma of the tedium of reporting the crime to the authorities.

The Vanishing

My FX was parked between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. that day in front of my We Forum office at the corner of Road 1 and Road 33 in Project 6, Quezon City, when it simply vanished unnoticed.

My first impulse was to alert the police. With a PLDT directory on hand, I started dialing police stations, including the emergency police assistance (166), Capcom (75-75) and anti-carnapping (75-70).

Either the numbers had busy tones or no one bothered to answer the phone. Instant police action? What a farce!

Exasperated, I finally got in touch with media colleagues, who informed me that I had to personally report the crime to the Traffic Management Group (TMG) of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame. Or else no one would entertain my complaint over the telephone because of police experience with pranksters and bum steers.

Cop in shorts

By the time I reached the TMG special operations division (SOD) in Crame, almost an hour had gone by since I started dialling. Meanwhile, my FX might have been breezing through the city's streets or might have been concealed in the ring's hideout somewhere.

SPO1 Jhounderick R. Rico, in shorts, looked like he had gone on an errand as I approached him inside a table-crowded office bathed in fluorescent light, a stark contrast to the building's front yard which had no lights at all.

The TMG SOG cubicle is part of a warren of sinister buildings that dot the dark streets inside Crame. Impounded vehicles, which I assumed to have been recovered but already cannibalized by car thieves, made the compound seem like a junk yard. I feared for my FX.

Apologetic

The lone agent, SPO1 Rico, was kind enough to let us sit and wait while he finished sorting out some computer sheets scattered on the table and on the floor. He was at least apologetic for the mess.

Ten minutes later he was asking me for the details of the theft. Then he went to a computer in a corner to encode the facts of the case.

"We've alerted Metro Manila police and Regions 3 and 4," the young policeman, beaming, told me in Filipino.

Then he asked me to fill up a proforma complaint sheet and sign a radio voice alarm which he had transmitted through the police network.

"Is that all?" I asked.

"No, sir," he said. "We have to send out a nationwide alarm but before doing that, there are still some requirements. "

Waiting, Waiting

In came another agent who seemed curious about the case. I told him that I had started asking my former sources as a police reporter. I told him that stolen vehicles in Quezon City were normally brought to two compounds in Novaliches and that those with tampered engine and chassis numbers could be easily registered in a Metro Manila Land Transportation Office (LTO) agency. He simply shrugged.

From Crame I took another taxi to the police station on Baler Street, off West Avenue, to report the same case and file the same complaint, as instructed by SPO 1 Rico. A burly guy, obviously a detective, who sat behind an elevated police desk was of no help. He explained that the desk officer was out taking his supper in a nearby eatery. Another 20 minutes of waiting.

Slow and deliberate

A glum PO2 Ariel Petilla, the desk officer on duty at the Baler police station of the Central Police District, took down my statement for the police blotter while I was standing before him, my chin resting on the top of the wooden partition that separated us. (If you're President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the officer on duty won't be able to notice you).

In a very slow, deliberate manner he finally finished jotting down my complaint. I waited for another 20 minutes for another police officer to prepare a certification of my complaint, which was needed by the TMG SOD so a nationwide alarm could be raised for my missing FX Tamaraw.

For the certification, Chief Inspector David de Leon Allauigan motioned us to follow him to the second floor, which turned out to be a computer room (yes, the decrepit Underwoods of my old police reporting days are extinct). The lone airconditioning unit had seen better days. The unit sputtered and droned and finally produced a copy of my certification, which the chief inspector signed and handed to me.

Not over yet

But the process is not yet over.

The next day, the certification, the complaint sheet I filled up in Crame, and the radio and voice alarm notice, plus my vehicle's LTO registration and official receipt—10 xerox copies of each—were again submitted to the TMG SOD authorities—to signal the end of a tedious reporting of a crime.

Now, it's just a matter of recovering my stolen FX.

When I was the victim of another theft (my stereo was stolen from my car) way back in the early'60s, the chief of the Manila Police then, Eduardo Quintos, called some of his officers and he ordered them: "Get Joe's car stereo!" The next day I got my strereo back.

Right connect, that's what we in the police beat used to say.

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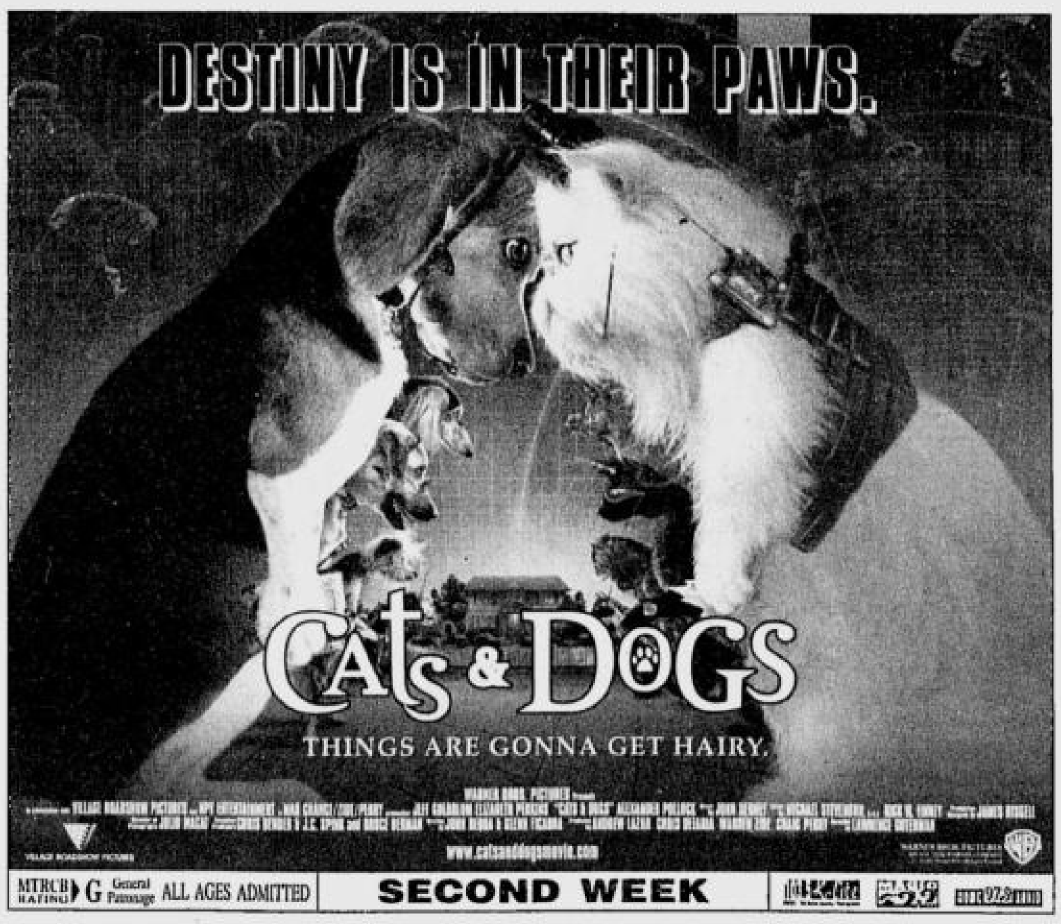

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Renée Zellweger Hugh Grant Colin Firth

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Sin in Paco fiesta mass

HIS Eminence Jaime Cardinal L. Sin will celebrate the fiesta mass in honor of the Our Lord of the Holy Sepulchre, patron of the San Fernando de Dilao parish of Paco, on Aug. 19 at 5 p.m.

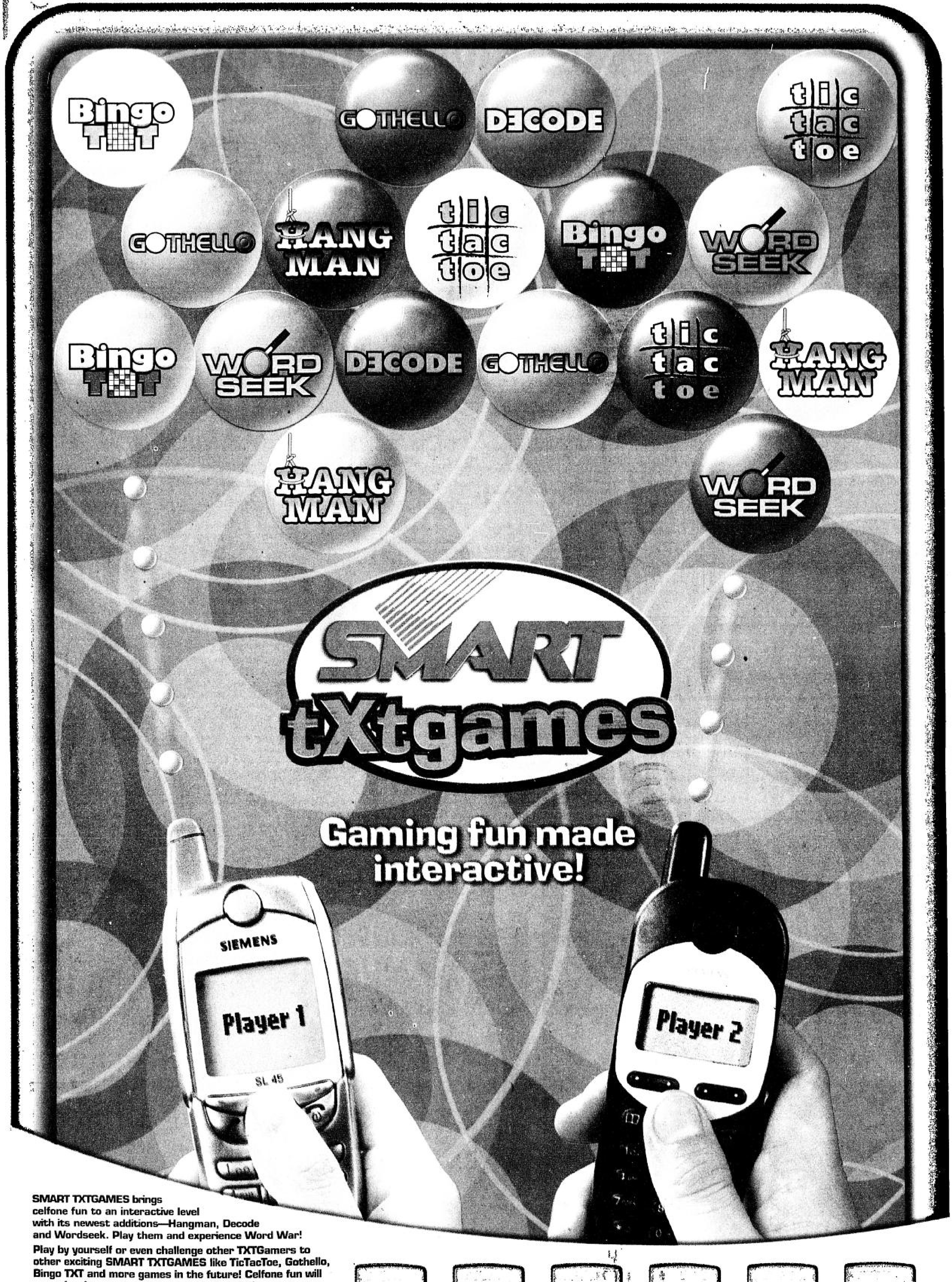
Cardinal Sin's mass will wind up the novena masses, which started on Aug. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

This year's celebration marks the 402nd anniversary of the founding of the parish.

Former priests who served the parish as well as guest priests led by former parish priest Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani Jr., will celebrate the novena masses, which focus on the fiesta theme: "Misyon ng Layko sa Hamon ng Ikatlong Milenyo."

The homilists are: Fr. Anton Pascual on Aug. 11; Bishop Bacani, Aug. 12; Fr. Aldrin Lopez, Aug. 13; Fr. Wilfedo Dulay, CICM, Aug. 14; Msgr. Bobby Canlas, Aug. 15; Msgr. Gerry Santos, Aug. 16; Fr. Eric Castro, Aug. 17; Fr. Clod Bagabaldo, Aug. 18.

Fiesta committee chairman is Sol Alturas-Yu, president of the Christian Women's League, while parish pastoral council president is Jose Quilantang.



SMART TXTGAMES brings celfone fun to an interactive level with its newest additions—Hangman, Decode and Wordseek. Play them and experience Word War!

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Game	To Play	Get help and other instructions
TIC-TAC-TOE	PLAY T3	HELP T3
GOTHELLO	PLAY GTLO	HELP GTLO
BINGOTXT	PLAY BT	HELP BT
HANGMAN	PLAY HM	HELP HM
DECODE	PLAY DC	HELP DC
WORDSEEK	PLAY WS	HELP WS

Send all commands to ***238***.

You can also send messages to another player in all two player SMART TXTGAMES!
To send a message, key in TO <nickname> <message>.
To reply to a message, key in REPLY <message>.
To find out your, or your opponent's rank, key in RANK <name>. Send all commands to **238**.

Each message sent to 238 will be charged P2.50 .

HANGMAN	**DECODE**	**WORDSEEK**	**TIC-TAC-TOE**	**GOTHELLO**	**BINGOTXT**
Guess the letters in the word leading to the phrase before your opponent does.	Unscramble letters to reveal the secret word.	Outwit your opponent by forming more words from the letters in a given word.	Place your symbols in a row of three before your opponent does.	Switch your opponent's symbols into your own by making moves in slots where your opponent's symbols are.	Place your symbols in a row of four before your opponent does.

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Treasury resists pressure to hike rates

EDEZA

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday he would not allow interest rates to climb too high as it would have a negative impact on business confidence.

The government is under increasing pressure to raise interest rates to stem a further slide in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Increased domestic interest rates, however, would further dampen economic activity as businessmen would naturally avoid borrowings to finance their expansion plans.

Edeza said that the Treasury and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas have had differences on the direction of interest rates but that he understood what to do since he was a former central banker.

"I will not allow interest rates to rise too much. Businessmen will lose confidence," Edeza said.

"If I have to argue and present our side, I will do that."

The Bangko Sentral has suspended a program to bring interest rates down since the peso began softening a few months ago. The currency slipped to a six-month low to the dollar in July.

However, the central bank has held off on increasing rates because of the likely negative effect on the depressed economy and used other methods to defend the peso—mainly increasing bank liquidity requirements and tightening foreign exchange trading regulations.

Effective yesterday, the reserve requirement on commercial banks rose by another two percentage points to 20 percent.

The central bank said it expects to siphon off another P27 billion in excess money from the system that otherwise could be used to speculate on the peso or jack up inflation.

The bank has cut its overnight rates by six percentage points since December but has held them steady since May.

Edeza said he was aware of the country's current economic problems and the relatively high inflation rate.

"The central bank is maintaining a high interest rate, we were having a small argument. But I came from the central bank and I know what to do," he said.

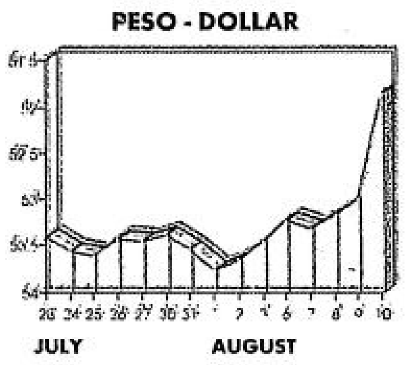
Prior to his current post, Edeza was a central bank director for treasury before becoming senior vice president in the country's largest bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

Edeza said he suspended the issue of Treasury paper with maturities five years and higher so that rates would not spike too high.

Reuters

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.85 = $1

As of 5 p.m., August 9, 2001

¥ 121.94 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 121.94 as of 5 p.m., August 10, 2001

GOLD:$272.90/273.40

per ounce Hong Kong, August 10, 2001

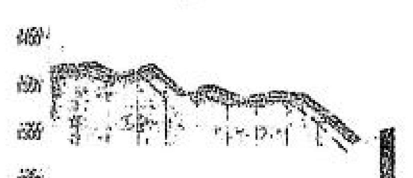
August 10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.120323	1.000000	53.0850
Japan	Yen	0.009210	0.008221	0.4364
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597580	1.426000	75.6992
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143648	0.128220	6.8066
Switzerland	Franc	0.663541	0.592277	31.4410
Canada	Dollar	0.728145	0.649942	34.5022
Singapore	Dollar	0.635464	0.567215	30.1106
Australia	Dollar	0.570923	0.509606	27.0524
Bahrain	Dinar	2.971836	2.652661	140.8165
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298736	0.266652	14.1552
Brunei	Dollar	0.628442	0.560947	29.7779
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024682	0.022031	1.1695
UAE	Dirham	0.305099	0.272331	14.4567
Korea	Won	0.000876	0.000782	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.892600	47.3837
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456379	24.2269
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136076	7.2236
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405044	21.5018
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064868	3.4435
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022127	1.1746
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150125	7.9694
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004452	0.2363
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005365	0.2848
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022127	1.1746
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.133368	60.1648

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 1.2%

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices rose 1.2 percent in technical gains yesterday as the local currency rebounded strongly against the dollar.

"Most issues are trading at oversold levels so this technical rebound is expected," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Corp.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 15.83 points to 1,294.23.

Volume rose to 435 million shares but value fell to P477 million compared to 283 million shares worth P1.06 billion traded on Thursday.

The central bank this week fined a number of local and foreign banks for alleged speculation against the local currency and raised the liquidity reserve requirement of banks by two percentage points to 11 percent.

"That will discourage speculation in the forex market," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

The local currency traded at an average of 52.568 to the greenback on Friday morning, touching a seven-week high of 52.10 at one point.

"The fighting target that (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) mentioned is P50 against the dollar," said Joey Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc.

"The market's rise was a result of a technical rally," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo. "The stronger peso also helped boost the market."

Del Castillo said the stock market's upside was capped by concern on pressure for local interest rates to go up due to inflationary pressure.

"The market's performance in the coming session would depend on the peso and the outcome of the treasury bill auction Monday," said del Castillo.

Higher treasury bill yields could boost local interest rates, making it more costly for businesses to borrow funds and encourage investors to focus on fixed-income instruments at the expense of other types of investments like equities.

AFP, AP

C&P hurt by forex losses

C&P Homes Inc. increased its operating income by 156 percent to P762.2 million last year from P297.1 million in 1999, the company said in a disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Heavy foreign exchange losses, however, wiped out the gains, leading to a net loss of P2.97 billion for the year.

The company's debt stock included $150 million worth of floating bank notes and P3 billion in long-term commercial papers, which were secured before the crippling Asian financial crisis unfolded in 1997.

Internal expenses and losses arising from the sharp depreciation of the peso rose 15 percent to P2.8 billion last year.

The company is currently finalizing a financial restructuring with its creditors that will address concerns of all sectors including holders of company debt notes while ensuring continuing operations.

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Quid pro quote

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHAT in Torquator's name is a currency peg? Can my kids use it, for instance, to buy the latest model of Nike training shoes? Mysteries such as this are hard to unravel.

Mere talk of a currency peg already wrought havoc on the stock market. Mere talk! Well, it came from Gloriaetta herself. Her words always carry a lot of importance.

All right, her statement was not even a definitive one. Notice her out-and-out disclaimer! What she said, in other words, was neither here nor there.

For while Gloriaetta said she was not ruling out a move to fix the exchange rate of the peso, she also indicated there is no plan. Gosh, she was not even envisioning it!

She was only trying to talk tough, something similar to the persona of Asiong Salonga. She meant to scare those noble currency speculators.

Wrong move! Sadly, her bold attempt came out just like the air you expel from drinking too much milk. You know—it went pffft!

* * *

WHEN her warning reached the market, it took on a different tone. If it was a basketball game, the stock market bit at the slightest fake of the eyebrow. Yes, just a wink!

We all know that, particularly in bad times, the market can concoct volumes of horror stories. The stock market is prone to react even to the most outlandish rumors.

Bet your bottom hoarded dollar, for instance, the stock market will react to rumors that Gloriaetta's husband, Mike the Knife, just had a sex change.

This is also the market, which, at times, consults the heavens—as in "horoscope"—to try to predict where prices are heading. You know—that gullible!

Anyway, a Business World report said the market was "spooked by reports" that Gloriaetta is "reviewing the possibility of imposing a fixed exchange rate policy."

Look, it's already a "policy!" What's more, there is already a "possibility of imposing" it! To top it all, Gloriaetta herself is already "reviewing" it! Wow!

* * *

WORD goes around in business that this "somebody" in the market, who is somehow connected to a wealthy family, is boasting around town about a closeness to Gloriaetta that is unrivaled in the annals of sidling up to power.

An outspoken critic of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band, this "somebody" apparently thinks of Gloriaetta as so beholden, she no longer has a mind of her own.

One of the boasts refers to a top official of the Export Processing Zone Authority. Our "somebody" supposedly can just tell Gloriaetta to dismiss the Epza official, and it's done. Zzzt! Just like that!

This "somebody" may have a name with the sound of money, but really, does anybody really enjoy that kind of influence over Gloriaetta? Go ahead, ask Mike!

* * *

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho y Go, it seems, does not like my calling him this administration's Whiz Kid. To him the term has a sound of arrogance!

All right, Whiz Kid, the dictionary defines you as "a person who is unusually intelligent, clever, or successful especially at an early age."

Okay, I relent, and so maybe he is no longer a kid. Is "the Whiz" fine with you, huh, the Whiz?

All along I have been hearing from Malacañang nothing but such a flattering description of the finance secretary. With emphasis on "successful!"

The implication is clear. Being already "successful," the Whiz is likely to be honest. That's why he makes for a good finance secretary. His job is all about money.

In an interview, which Gloriaetta gave me at the Palace, the President even showed excitement over her three Wall Street-types in the Cabinet.

They are the Whiz, of course, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez. Gloriaetta even liked it that they are well connected.

Being connected, in business, has something to do with . . . well, deals. I said earlier that the Whiz has a deal with Hong Kong Bank. To me it smells, that's all!

* * *

FOR the Whiz waived the 20-percent withholding tax on some P12 billion worth of government IOUs, which Hong Kong Bank handled.

Such is never done with government IOUs. The withholding tax is the easiest tax to collect. And this cute administration is already scrapping the bottom of the tax barrel.

The waiver raised not just a few eyebrows in banking. And so the Whiz tried to defend his decision. I don't think he convinced everybody about the soundness of it.

He told bankers that Hong Kong Bank got such a, er, extraordinary treatment, because it came with a $200-million swap. This, for the sake of some senators, is a loan.

In the swap, Hong Kong Bank would quote the Whiz a good interest rate. At least much lower than what the market would normally ask for. What's that—quid pro quote?

Anyway, in handling that P12-billion issue of government IOUs, Hong Kong Bank still had to work in a competitive market.

Whadayano, the waiver made by the Whiz just made its work easier. At the expense, of course, of its competitors. Don't tell me everything is all right there!

Petron profit seen rebounding to ₱1.3B in 2001

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

PETRON Corp.'s earnings are seen to rebound to P1.3 billion by year's end from a loss of P1 billion in 2000, according to the latest market analysis from ING Barings.

In this month's issue of its Philippines Stock Market Review, ING Barings said "Petron's strategic move to increase its share of exports and to hedge foreign exchange risks and commodity prices will improve its earnings prospects."

Earlier, Petron reported that it chalked up P513 million in net profit for the first half of 2001, a "modest recovery" from the P628-million net loss in the same period last year.

Petron president Motaasim A. Al-Ma'ashouq told shareholders during their annual meeting that the firm's improved performance was due to relatively stable crude prices that eased operating costs.

This was the same reason why ING Barings "expect(s) gross margins to be significantly better than in 2000" despite a drop in sales volume in the second quarter due to weak demand.

"A more market-oriented regulatory environment and modest pump price increases allow for margin expansion," the review said.

ING Barings noted that despite political risks, the Macapagal administration has "remained steadfast" in implementing the oil industry deregulation law, which allows oil companies to set prices.

"By focusing on more market-oriented solutions, management can make quicker decisions to protect its margins," the review added.

Petron, the largest refiner in the country, has adopted the new tack of giving more emphasis on exports while giving up some domestic accounts.

Petron officials explained that this gave the firm healthier margins than it could get from local sales.

They also pointed out that export sales insulated part of their revenues from fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Exports made up 21.1 percent of Petron's sales in the first quarter, pushing gross margins up to 10.7 percent from 4 percent in the same period in 2000.

ERIK ARAZAS

DEMUTUALIZATION

Philippine Stock Exchange chair Felipe Yap, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista and PSE president Ramon Garcia ring the ceremonial bell to mark the unified bourse's demutualization or formal conversion to a stock corporation.

Primex up 10% on 1st trading day

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SHARES of medium-sized real estate developer Primex Corp. rose by 4.5 percent yesterday on the company's debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange, buoyed by the market's technical rebound due to bargain hunting.

Primex, which sold 67 million secondary shares at P2.20 each, ended 10 centavos higher at P2.30 in thin turnover of 445,000 shares valued at about P1 million.

It was the first company to list on the PSE's main board this year and the second overall after IT service firm SQL Wizard Inc. debuted on the small and medium enterprise board last month.

"Primex did very well considering the weak market condition. We will see next week because it takes one week to see where a stock is headed, but it's definitely off to a good start," said Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman & Co.

The company shared in the gains of the property index, which rebounded by 16.03 points to close at 490.78 yesterday.

"I don't see much selling (from existing shareholders of Primex). It's easy to move the stock but given the weak sentiment, it's difficult to do so," Mark Securities Corp. head of research Manuel Cruz said.

Should other property counters like Ayala Land Inc. and Filinvest Land succumb to market weakness within the next few days, Cruz said the jitters would also spill over to Primex.

As the shares offered were secondary, the proceeds will go to the selling shareholders rather than the company. But Primex vice president for legal affairs and director Ericson Ang said the listing was pursued despite the weak market because this was a strategic positioning in anticipation of a rebound in the battered property sector.

"If and when the property market recovers, we'll be the first in line to cash in from the recovery," Ang said.

Ang expressed confidence that Primex could compete with other property companies as far as investor interest was concerned because it had the advantage of being debt-free and of having acquired land at lower costs.

Among the company's future plans was to set up a computer school inside one of its commercial lots in Malabon, which it is developing into a Primex business park.

Primex concentrates on the middle- to upper-end markets and is hoping to pursue further development and market more inventories in the future. It has so far completed two high-end residential projects: the 6-hectare Goldendale Village in Malabon and The Richdale in Antipolo. It has also completed the development of Goldendale II in Malabon.

According to the prospectus for its initial public offering, Primex is expecting a net income of P16.3 million this year as against the P7.5 million chalked up last year.

Ayala reports ₱2.45-B profit for first 6 months

AYALA Corp. posted a consolidated net income of P2.45 billion for the first half of 2001, slightly higher than the net income of P2.42 billion for the same period last year.

The company said the net income was inclusive of one-time gains from the sale of Pure Foods Corp. and equity earnings from its subsidiaries.

Ayala's major subsidiaries, which include Globe Telecom, Bank of the Philippine Islands, and Ayala Land, posted generally stronger performance despite the difficult business environment.

In banking, it said BPI registered a consolidated net income of P3.48 billion for the first half of 2001, 81 percent higher year-on-year.

It said the profits came largely from the expansion of the bank's asset base, higher trading gains, improved profit performance of the insurance subsidiaries and leaner cost base. As of end-June 2001, net loans remained flat at P171 billion, deposits increased by 16 percent to P327 billion, and total resources grew by 12 percent to P405 billion.

In telecommunications, Globe Telecom posted a net income of P2.55 billion, 311 percent higher compared to the P621-million income recorded for the same period last year. Globe continued to attract more subscribers on the strength of its network quality, superior customer service and innovative service offerings that capitalize on the limitless potential of new technologies, the company said.

Its subscriber base grew to 3.6 million from 1.8 million a year ago. In June, the company completed its acquisition of Islacom. Globe is expected to benefit from expected revenues, capital expenditure, operating cost synergies, as well as the entry of a third strong strategic shareholder in Deutsche Telekom.

Ayala's real estate subsidiary ALI posted revenues of P6.8 billion and a consolidated net income of P1.12 billion for the period, 7 percent lower than the previous year. Leasing operations, which accounted for 22 percent of revenues, continued to be a major revenue driver. Occupancy rates for ALI's shopping centers and office buildings were maintained at the mid-90 percent range. While the property market remained soft, Ayala Land focused on niche markets with Paseo de Magallanes and Montgomery Place experiencing healthy take-up rates of more than 90 percent.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Aug. 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	61.5	61	61	122,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33.5	32	33.5	14,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	210	208	210	55,220
Philippine National Bank	48	48	47.5	47.5	97,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	30	28.5	30	2,600
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18.5	18.75	41,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1585	1585	5,640
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1290	1290	1270	1275	8,760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	37	37	37	37	21,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.49	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	620	620	100
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	23,070,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	7,000
Piltel	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	590	565	580	94,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	82,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	32.5	31.5	32	22,300
Manila Electric Co. B	38	38.5	38	38.5	2,076,300
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	3,334,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.86	765,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	1,405,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	51,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	11,600
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.32	2.34	668,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	41	41	58,200
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	244,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,679,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.52	105,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.02	1.04	1,097,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	220,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	12	10.5	12	700
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	1,700,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.78	1,406,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	30,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	26	27.5	26	27.5	53,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	284,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	145,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	670,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,950,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	10,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,690,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	23,000
Music Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	19,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.9	2,180,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.83	180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	860,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	290,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	250,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37	37	37	37	5,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	510	510	510	510	130
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	10,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	37,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	78,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.55	4.6	10,716,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	650,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	1,487,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Primex Corp.	2.22	2.3	2.22	2.3	445,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.2	3,313,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.048	0.049	0.045	0.045	21,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	64,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
OIL					
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	348,120	45,161,380.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	259,235,040	212,937,835.00
PRO	86,571,000	220,942,690.00
Mining	89,260,000	1,449,000.00
OIL	100,000	25,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	435,519,160	480,527,605.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	532.07	UP 0.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,819.48	UP 13.91
PRO	490.78	UP 16.03
Mining	1,241.68	UP 5.15
OIL	1.79	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	799.07	DOWN 1.48
Composite	1,294.23	UP 15.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 89; NO. OF TRADES: 1,949

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has declared a cash divided of 50 centavos per share on its **Series B, F, Q, V, Z,** 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stock in favor of stockholders as of Aug. 30 and shall be payable on Sept. 28. Also declared were cash dividends of $1.029412 per share on the company's **Series III** convertible preferred stock in favor of stockholders as of Sept. 7, payable on Oct. 15 and P0.00375 share per day on the company's **Series IV** cumulative non-convertible in favor of stockholders as of Sept. 15, payable on the same date. Also declared were cash dividends of P4.675 per share per quarter on its **Series V,** US$.09925 per share per quarter on its **Series VI** and ¥10.179725 per share per quarter on the company's **Series VII** convertible preferred stock in favor of stockholders as of Sept. 7, payable on Oct. 15.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp.** were John Gokongwei Jr., James L. Go, Lance Y. Gokongwei, Perry L. Pe, Roberto Coyiuto Jr., Miguel Coyiuto, Amparo V. Barcelon, Jaime L. Ledesma, Patrick Henry Go, Macario Te and Anthony Te.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. denied it had any information that could explain the 48.65-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.37 to P0.55 per share.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will have its company briefing on Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m., at the Workshop 1, 2/F DAP Building in San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. denied it had any information that could explain the 38.89-percent decrease in its share price to P0.22 from P0.36 per share.

* * *

THE board of directors of **Megaworld Corp.** approved the agreement entered into with **Pan Pacific Industrial Sales Co. Inc.** for the development of the latter's 1,738-square-meter property on Carlos Palanca St., Makati City.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. decreased its authorized capital stock from P1.5 billion to P1.27 billion. Also, the company will purchase one share out of every eight shares held by each stockholder as of May 31, 2001 for its buyback offer.

Compiled by Chona B. Galang, PDI Research

Gov't pushes for integration of Asean's garments industry

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is pushing for the integration of the textile and garments industry in Southeast Asia to enable the region to compete with other low-cost producers in a quota-less market in 2005.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Donald Dee said the integration would be spurred by higher intratrade of yarns and fabrics among Asean countries to boost regional content in textile and garments exports.

In a presentation to members of the Asean Working Group for Industry Competitiveness, Dee said while most of the Asean countries were major producers of cotton, rayon, acrylic and polyester, their output of yarns and fabrics were sold largely to non-Asean countries.

Dee cites, as an example, the Philippines, which imports all its raw materials from abroad but gets its supplies largely from non-Asean countries.

Dee said should Asean encourage the trading of yarns and fabrics, the textile and garments industry in the region would realize substantial cost savings and further enhance their competitiveness in the future.

He said Asean needed to close rank to compete with low-cost producers in Latin America and Eastern European countries in exporting textile and garments to the United States, Europe and Japan, especially after the lifting of all quotas in five years.

Due to the lack of raw materials, Dee said, the local textile and garments industry had been depending on its creativity and the quality of its output in sustaining exports. Without the US quota, however, the local industry is likely to collapse unless it finds a cheaper source of raw materials.

The country's worsening political and internal security crises have started to weigh down on the country's exports, as foreign buyers have slowed down their orders of garments and textile in the first five months.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports were flat at $1.258 billion in the first five months this year, a marked turnaround from its double-digit growth performance last year.

At this pace, the GTEB doubted whether it could duplicate its $3-billion export performance last year.

The unabated smuggling of garments and textiles had steadily driven fabric makers out of business over the last few years.

The Federation of Philippine Textile Industries reported that installed capacity of spinning mills had fallen from 1.5 million spindles in 1991 to 350,000 last year, which rendered 42,000 direct employees jobless.

In the garment business, there are only 3,000 manufacturers in operation last year from 12,000 in the early 1990s.

Contrary to critics' view that textiles were a sunset industry, the FPTI said the domestic market remained a potent market for local textile makers considering that half of the estimated, 300,000 tons of textiles used in the country annually had been gobbled up by imports, most of which were brought in illegally or without paying their duties.

Agri growth seen at 3%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture said yesterday that it expected agricultural sector growth to come in at 3 percent this year despite some bad weather.

"We are optimistic that a 3-percent growth this year can still be attained," Assistant Agriculture Secretary Segrefredo Serrano said in a seminar.

"The growth will come despite typhoons, mostly from the livestock and poultry sectors and high-value crops," he said.

A typhoon in early July is estimated to have destroyed some 180,000 tons of corn, according to government estimates.

The country's paddy rice production grew by 2.3 percent in the first six months of the year to 5.6 million metric tons.

Serrano said early palay harvests during this period prevented the destruction of crops by bad weather.

Corn production yields, however, were not spared as typhoons trimmed yields to 858 million metric tons from April to June as compared with 1,071 billion metric tons in the first quarter.

Gov't asked to scrap steel incentive

THE FILIPINO Galvanizers Institute has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to review, if not revoke, an "anomalous" executive order issued by her deposed predecessor that, it says, favors one company at the expense of the entire steel industry.

In a statement, FGI, a group formed by eight manufacturers of galvanized steel, said Executive Order 237 issued by former President Joseph Estrada "unjustly favored" Steel Corporation of the Philippines since it supposedly allowed the firm to secure a "highly questionable" zero-tariff incentive on its hot rolled coil importation.

Steelcorp insisted, however, that the incentive it got from the Estrada administration was provided under Republic Act 7103, also known as the "Iron and Steel Industry Act."

FGI maintained that Steelcorp's zero-tariff incentive went against the mandate of RA 7103, saying the law provided tax perks only on imported raw materials such as ore and manganese.

FGI counsel Joel Ruiz Butuyan argued that Estrada's executive order "violated the spirit of the law when it exempted hot rolled coil from tariffs when Congress clearly provided that only importation of raw materials such as iron ore may be granted tariff incentive."

Butuyan stressed that hot rolled coil was not a raw material but a processed or intermediate steel product as specifically categorized by RA 7103.

Hot rolled coils are produced when raw materials such as iron ore are mixed with limestone and coal and charged in a blast furnace to produce refined iron ore or "pig iron." This refined iron ore is then melted again in an electric furnace and cast in slab casters to produce slab ingots. These slab ingots are rolled in hot strip mill to produce hot rolled coils and sheets, among others.

Philsteel Holdings Corp. senior vice president Rolando Jaurigue said, however, that the zero-tariff incentive on FGI's hot rolled coils was warranted under a rational tariff incentive and protection scheme provided under RA 7103.

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FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (second from left) turns over a symbolic key to Urban Bank Inc. to Export and Industry Bank chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. (third from left), EIB vice chair Reynaldo David and EIB president Benjamin Castillo. EIB is taking control of Urban Bank, which shut down in April last year. Urban Bank is expected to reopen before the end of the month.

DBP first-half profit slips 17%

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines yesterday reported that its first-half profit reached P857 million, down 17 percent from last year's P1.03 billion.

DBP president Remedios Macalincag said the DBP had requested the Department of Finance to allow it to remit only 15 percent of last year's combined net income and loan loss provisions amounting to P2.5 billion.

Government financial institutions like the DBP were previously required to remit half of their total net income after tax to the national government. Following the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, however, this requirement was changed. These institutions are now obliged to give at least half of their net income plus loan loss provisions.

Macalincag said the DBP would remit far more than what would have been required under the old rule should the national government insist on the new policy.

The finance department has rejected the DBP's request to make a 15-percent dividend payment but has yet to peg the specific percentage of funds to be remitted.

Macalincag explained that the bank's net income was needed to support its lending program.

The DBP has P53.9 billion in funds this year to support development projects and activities under the bank's wholesale and retail lending operations.

Multilateral and bilateral institutions such as the World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank and Kreditanstalt fur Weideraufbau of Germany contributed more than 80 percent of the P53.9 billion total loan program.

Macalincag also reported that the DBP's past due rate continued to be among the lowest in the industry at 8.8 percent as of end-May this year.

Cement firm commits stable prices

DESPITE incurring huge losses due to a surge in imports, Republic Cement Co. has pledged not to increase its average ex-plant cement prices should the government impose a 200-day safety net for the industry against imports.

Republic Cement is the holding company of Fortune Cement Corp., Iligan Cement Corp. and Mindanao Portland Cement Corp. It also maintains its own facilities in Bulacan.

Republic Cement's pledge follows that of another major cement producer, Union Cement Corp., which has also committed to keep its prices.

Republic Cement president Juan Miguel Montinola said the Republic group would hold its net "ex-plant" cement prices at P126 per bag this year for all its products, including bulk and pozzolan. It would adjust its prices only to reflect significant peso-dollar fluctuations.

According to Montinola, Republic and its subsidiaries made this pledge to assure the government and the public that it would act responsibly.

Montinola said the Department of Trade and Industry's decision on the local industry's application for safeguards "would dictate the industry's survival or collapse. Its grant would not lead to any increase in the Republic group's net ex-plant cement prices but would instead assure the survival of the local industry."

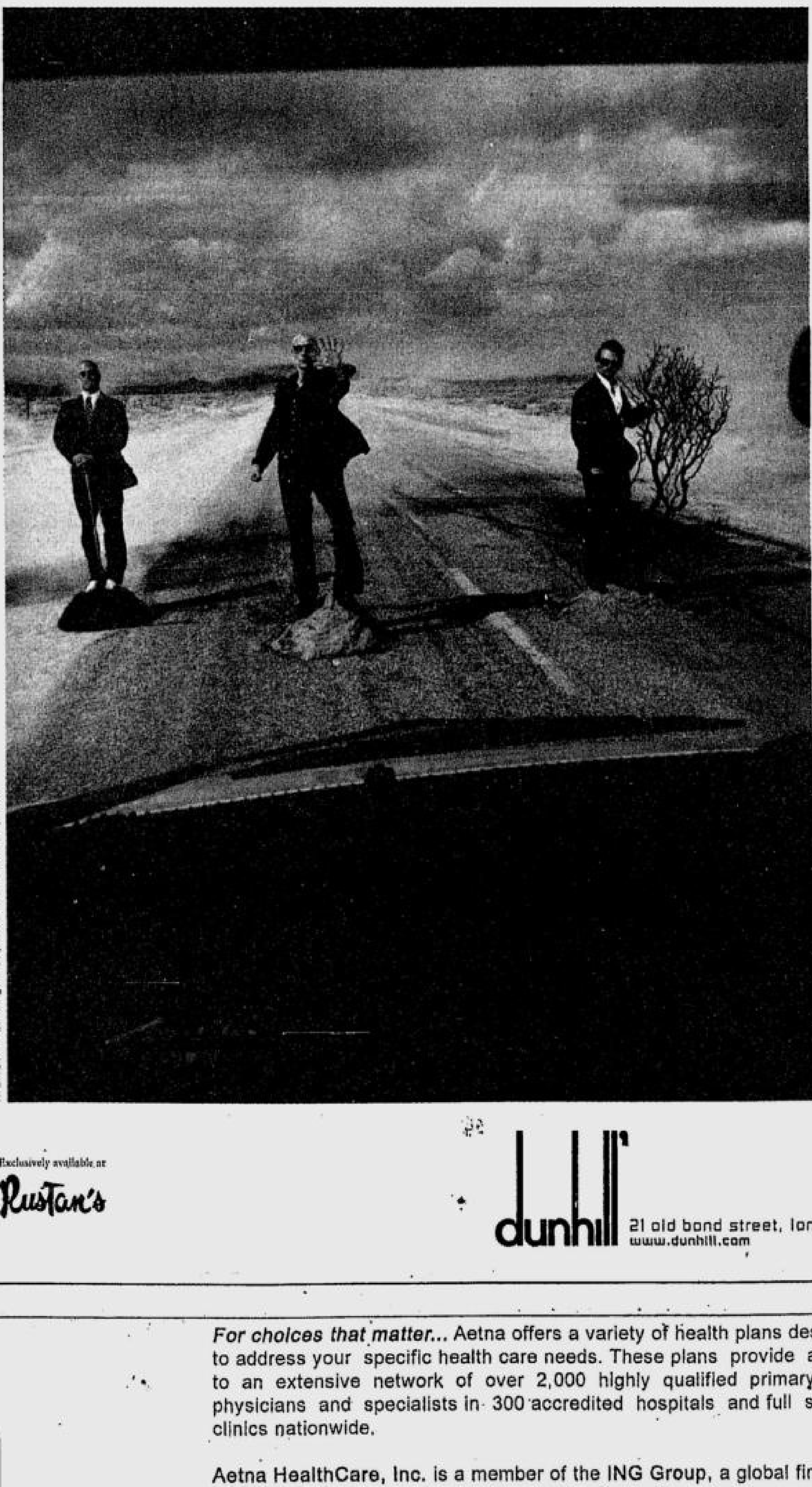
The Republic group has also committed to do other measures to assure stable prices. One initiative to ensure stable prices throughout its third-party distribution chain is its issuance to dealers of a recommended retail price list by region.

Montinola said the group would also "continue to encourage the use of pozzolan cement for general construction purposes, where applicable to contractors and consumers."

"It is a superior product when properly applied, environmentally friendlier to produce and, best of all for the consumer, is at least P5 per bag cheaper than type 1 Portland cement," he said.

Montinola also said that with regard to government infrastructure projects, the Republic group would maintain its policy of offering long-term contracts for cement supply and locked in and competitive prices.

"We continue to work hard on the areas that we control such as ongoing manufacturing programs," he said. "This is evident in the numerous awards that the group has achieved in quality, environment, employee health and safety, and energy conservation."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(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

Imported Billiard 22T, 355 complete Acc's 8618714/16 8613123 8613125

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

PERSONAL DRIVER 27 or Younger Stay-In Call 911-9369 Ofc Hrs Look For Ana Espiritu

FEMALE

Secretary with Accounting exp. 8965470 start ASAP. Mr.Chanda

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/Int'l. Cook, Fam. Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTING CLERK At least 22-28y/o Coll. Grad. Acctg Major w/ exp. Apply @ Maximum Sec. & Srvcs Corp. 2F Unified Bldg #6 Denver St Cubao QC. Luk 4 Mrs. Marina Ponte Admn. & Personnel Officer

CARE GIVER T5280722

Direct Hire Ofc Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

GRAPHIC ARTIST 731-7216

NURSE W/2YRS. EXP. & COMPUTER LITERATE CONTACT NO. 983-53-63

OFC STAFF 4376847 JOYCE

•Ofc staff 9134470 April

•OFC STAFF 913-4470 KC•

Office Staff 9134470 Rey

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
In Compliance to R.A. 7041

LEGAL OFFICER V; SG-24; Item # 3; Bachelor of Laws; 2 years in position/s involving management and supervision; preferably with gov't. exp.; 8 hrs. of training in mgt. and supervision; R.A. 1080.

Law Office is in need of:

One (1) Secretary, computer literate and with pleasing personality

One (1) clerk typist, computer literate

PLEASE SEND YOUR BIO-DATA TO:

P.O. BOX 14250
ORTIGAS CENTER POST OFFICE
EMERALD AVENUE, BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, PASIG CITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY TEACHERS w/pleasing personality likes to work w/people CALL Chai Jax 687-0730

From: Davao Province Yaya/Maids/H'se Boy For Employment Call:0917-8398639 • 634-0798

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOAQUIN M. CARRILLO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc#17 Page#05 Book#XVI Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Romeo De Chavez.
(PDI July 28 Aug. 4, & 11 2001)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. VICTORIA P. LEDESMA located at Pasig City has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc.#7213; Page 9; Book 23; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Danilo Banares of Makati City.
(PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of stock certificate #88012044, 30 shares dated July 25, 1988 issued by San Miguel Corp. to Ms. LORNA A. ABANTO If no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-July28,Aug.4&11,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen
Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. MTO

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, for favor granted.

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

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NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COUNTRYSIDE RURAL BANK (Quezon), INC.

1. Starting August 14, 2001, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Countryside Rural Bank (Quezon), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors:

Countryside Rural Bank (CRBI) Office/Branch	Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Real, Quezon (Head Office)	CRBI - Head Office M.L. Quezon Ave., Real, Quezon	Aug. 14 to Sept. 10, 2001
Angono & Taytay	CRBI - Angono Branch Town proper, beside Mun. Hall, Angono, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Sept. 10, 2001
Antipolo & Cainta	CRBI - Antipolo Branch Bagong Nayon, Antipolo, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001
Tanay	CRBI - Tanay Branch Brgy. Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Aug. 31, 2001
Famy	CRBI - Famy Branch National Highway, Famy, Laguna	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001
Pagsanjan	CRBI - Pagsanjan Branch National Highway, Biñan, Pagsanjan, Laguna	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Countryside Rural Bank is on November 9, 2002. After November 9, 2002, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Aug 11 & 13, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS) East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1. Elenita Garcia	Unknown	Herminigildo Arguillon SS#07-0618382-3	May 1, 2000
2. Julita Salonga	Unknown	Marlito G. Bacamante SS#03-1929709-6	March 28, 2001
3. Eugenia Alo and Elizabeth Barbosa	109 Mangga Site, Sucat Parañaque, Metro Manila	Elias Barbosa SS#07-0385132-3	January 6, 1998
4. Cristina Reyes	1464 Balintawak St. Tondo, Manila	Gregorio C. Borja Jr. SS#03-2296589-4	May 26, 2001
5. Milagros Lumarian Carsolin	507 Moriones St., Tondo Manila	Enrique Carsolin SS#03-1948792-9	June 28, 2001
6. Erminda Mamaril, Sheila & Sarah Fabian	9 San Diego St., Marulas Valenzuela, Metro Manila	Edgardo M. Fabian SS# 03-2319522-3	May 17, 2001
7. Luzviminda D. Gordevilla	Lugam, Malolos, Bulacan	Romeo Gordevilla SS#03-9170545-4	January 22, 2001
8. Neil & Nelson Hao	#8 Genes Aguilar St. Lucena City	Jorge Hao SS#03-0380332-8	Not Indicated
9. Edgardo Hapin	Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	Rosel Hapin SS#02-3143549-9	January 20, 2001
10. Analita Tahay Isuga	Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte	Josie Isuga SS#07-1266029-1	February 1, 1999
11. Clarita Libre	Puan, Talomo, Davao City	Exequiel L. Libre SS#09-0576815-9	December 19, 1996
12. Iniga Daginod	78-B, Sta. Fe, Bo. Magsaysay Tondo, Manila	Alex Ligaya SS#03-0000713-7	February 12, 2001
13. Arnulfo Malalad	Socorro, Oriental Mindoro	Amelia M. Malalad SS#03-4381611-3	April 15, 2001
14. Estela	Unknown	Nicanor Manlangit SS#03-0840519-0	April 27, 2001
15. Alice/Alicia Martinez	Unknown	Domingo Martinez Jr. SS#07-0485472-7	April 12, 2001
16. Eufemia Mocay	Aloran, Misamis Occidental	Benjamen Mocay SS#09-0962987-0	April 19, 2001
17. Esperanza Palalon	719 Old National Road Mangahan Lanao, Limay Bataan	Concordio Palalon SS#01-0211177-4	February 12, 2001
18. Elisa M. Penkian	Calinan, Davao City	Martin M. Penkian SS#06-0353173-0	July 7, 1993
19. Victor M. Garcia	New Era, Bucal, Dasmariñas Cavite	Laila Baloloy Pilarca SS#33-1762090-5	November 2, 1999
20. Joey Mar and Jayson Ramos	Bulacan	Armando T. Ramos SS#03-4803354-8	December 23, 2000
21. Erlinda I. Sardon	100-4 C.M. Recto Avenue Davao City	Monico I. Sardon Jr. SS#09-0422967-3	December 7, 1999
22. Virginia Cruz	293 Tuborias, San Juan Metro Manila	Carlos D. Sevilla SS#03-0780412-9	April 21, 2001
23. Antoneta C. Suay and Rey Suay Jr.	Butuan Aniniay, Antique	Rey A. Suay SS#03-4754194-7	June 27, 2000
24. Violeta & Wilson Tafalla	Unknown	Jorge Tafalla SS#03-5899720-5	December 10, 1999
25. Lolita Agustin and Arnold Trinidad	Sta. Ana, Manila	Agustin M. Trinidad SS#03-2613610-8	July 3, 2001

(PDI – August 11, 2001)

BAYAN TEL

INVITATION TO BID

Equipment for Sale	One (1) Local Exchange Switch (SEIMENS EMS 601N TELEPHONE SWITCH)
Minimum Bid Price	P30,805,390.00
Location	BayanTel Warehouse, Luz Village, Butuan City. 8600

EQUIPMENT DETAILS

8 EMS 601N Switches

Combined Capacity = 3500
Combined Trunk Capacity = 1050
Type: Digital PABX

Details:

8 Cabinets: With individual capacity of
656; 592; 680; 680; 336; 256; 150; 150lines respectively
With individual trunk capacity of:
180; 150; 210; 210; 210; 30; 30; 30 respectively

Accessories:

9 Units Rectifier charger, DC 48/30A
4 units Booth Attendant Console
IDF (Intermediate Distribution Frame)
3 cabinets with power supply: DCS 1000s

The management of Bayantel: Northern Mindanao would like to invite interested parties to bid on its Seimens EMS 601N Digital Telephone Switch with a capacity of 3,500 lines.

Date of Bidding : **October 1, 2001**
Time of Bidding : 2:00 p.m.
Venue of Bidding : 4/F BAYANTEL BUILDING, M. CALO ST., BUTUAN CITY

The terms of the bidding are as follows:

- Sealed bids shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **September 28, 2001.**
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Manager/Cashiers Check drawn in favor of Bayan Telecommunications, Inc. (Bayantel) in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid price (the "bid bond").
- Winning Bidder shall pay the bid price within five (5) days from the notice of the award; otherwise the bid shall be forfeited.
- Sale shall be on a "as is where is basis".
- Switch shall be pulled-out only after full payment of bid price.
- Cost to dismantle an transport the switch from BayanTel's premises shall be for bidder's account.
- Any and all taxes, if any, due on the sale or to effect transfer of title to the switch in the name of the bidder shall be for bidders account.
- Bayantel reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason whatsoever.
- Cost of maintenance and storage shall be added to the winning bid price if item remains unclaimed by the winning bidder after seven (7) days from notice of winning bid.

☐ **For inquiries, request for ocular inspection and bidding forms, please call the Office of the General Manager at (85) 341-1515 look for Mr. Sonny Montilla.**

(PDI - Aug. 5 & 12, 2001)

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SLRC-2001-08B

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 30, 2001; 2:00 p.m.	
A1	135 MT	CAUSTIC SODA (LIQUID)	3TIW01-013
A2	525 MT	CAUSTIC SODA (LIQUID)	3MAK01-234
A3	1 LOT	HYDROGEN & CARBON DIOXIDE GASES	3MAK00-782
A4	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF L-200	3ADM01-121
A5	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF L-300 VAN	3ADM01-122
A6	1 LOT	J.O. BODY REPAIR/PAINTING OF NISSAN VANETTE	3ADM01-124
A7	1 LOT	GALVANIZING COMPOUND AND SOLVENT	3LAG01-089
A8	1 LOT	SAFETY SHOES	3TIW01-005
A9	1 SET	DRIFT ELIMINATOR ("MARLEY")	3MAK01-255
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 3, 2001; 2:00 p.m.	
B1	15 PCS	SOLENOID COIL	3BAC01-243
B2	1 LOT	DEMINERALIZER CARTRIDGES	3TIW01-015
B3	65 PCS	CONNECTORS (WEDGE TYPE)	3PTG01-030
B4	1 UNIT	WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM	3TIW01-016
B5	1 LOT	MULTI-GAS DETECTOR, H_2S GAS MONITOR	3BAC00-827
B6	1 LOT	BOLTS AND NUTS (ASSORTED SIZES)	3NCS01-071
B7	1 LOT	RELAYS, SWITCHES, VALVES, DRIER, ETC.	3MAK01-295
B8	2 SETS	2/2 - WAY PISTON OPERATED VALVE	3BAC01-334
B9	12 PCS	OIL FILTER ELEMENT ("NKK")	3BAC01-216
B10	30 PCS	TERMINAL LUGS	3BAC01-113
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 4, 2001; 2:00 p.m.	
C1	17 UNITS	PORTABLE HANDHELD RADIOS	3BAC01-037
C2	1 LOT	EXPANSION JOINT, SPEED CHANGER ASSY., LOAD LIMITER ASSY.	3MAK01-134
C3	1 SET	VARISTOR/SILISTOR	3MAK99-421
C4	1 LOT	PARTS FOR FIRE FIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM	3BAC01-351
C5	1 LOT	FILTER CARTRIDGES ("SIMA")	3BAC01-338
C6	1 LOT	J.O. CONDUCT OF MEDICAL CHECK-UP	3ADM01-104
C7	1 LOT	J.O. REFILLING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	3MAK01-235
C8	2 UNITS	J.O. REPAIR OF CONDENSERS FOR AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM	3BAC01-327
C9	52 PCS	J.O. RECONDITIONING OF PCBs OF GENERATOR EXCITATION & FIELD CONTROL SYSTEM	3MAK01-237
C10	1 LOT	J.O LOADING, HAULING, UNLOADING OF STEEL POLES (270 PCS.)	3PTG01-036

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) C8 - August 20, 2001; 1:00 p.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
2) C9 - August 20, 2001; 9:30 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
3) C10 - August 20, 2001; 3:00 p.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **August 16, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **August 22, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/ Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration

(PDI - Aug 11, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-9502/03; 743-8301 to 23 local 1107, 1125

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: August 3, 2001
Loan No.: 3852 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment and Supplies.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of office equipment and supplies for the Department of Health.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Building No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Facsimile No. (632) 711-6831.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased starting August 13, 2001 to September 3, 2001 by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Goods.
6. Bids must be delivered to the Department of Health, Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila on or before 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, cashier's or certified check of 2.5% of the bid amount.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 22, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 2:00 PM at the address indicated above.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
9. The Department of Health hereby receives the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to the local health units.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – Aug. 5, 11 & 12, 2001)

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sbma

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg. 235, Barryman St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines
(6347) 252-4214/4124 Fax: (6347) 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS
AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS 'AS IS, WHERE IS'

I

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS
a) Unserviceable transformers and other scrap materials at Bldgs. 709, 877 and 8122	August 30, 2001, Thursday, 2:00 p.m.
b) Weather protection sheds and sandblasting hooper at SRF and NSD compound	August 30, 2001, Thursday, 3:00 p.m.
c) Abandoned finished products and other properties by Korea Subic-manufacturer of fishing rods at NavMag	August 30, 2001, Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

II. Only accredited buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
  1 Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group of PPMD, SBMA.
  2. Latest Income Tax Return (TTR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-qualification Papers is on August 16, 2001, Thursday, (5:00 pm). No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on August 23, 2001, Thursday (3:00 p.m.)

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Sealed Bid in prescribed form shall be received on the above cited date at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, Call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4283 c/o Danny Sanchez, Secretariat/TWG.

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 9th day of August.

(Sgd.) Capt. VICTOR L. MAMON
SDA for Operation
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI--August 10, 11, 12, 2001)

ERRATUM

In the ad of SBMA Disposable Committee, published in this paper yesterday, August 10, 2001 the Invitation to Bid for the Sale of Assorted Disposable/ Surplus and other Scrap Materials was signed by **Capt. Victor L. Mamon** and not **Victoria L. Mamon** as printed.

Our Apologies

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
9th Floor DENR by the Bay Bldg. 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Phils
☎ 5219421 • 5219403 • 5226632 • 5227531 • 5227529 • 5227533
• 5227528 • 5244189 • 5244203 • 5244205 • 5244184
Fax No. 5219486

INVITATION TO BID
"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

The Natural Resources Development Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the forest products described below:

LOCATION/ DEPOSITORY AREA	ESTIMATED VOLUME/ NO. OF PCS.	SPECIES/ FORM
Brgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan	689.21 cubic meters	Logs
Luzon Mahogany Timber Corp. (LUZMATIM) Brgy. Calumangin, Gumaca, Quezon	54.14 cubic meters	Assorted species (round logs)
Mr. Epifanio Bernardo Cmpd., Brgy. Sabang, Mauban, Quezon	77.46 cubic meters	Round logs
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	2,164.00 board feet	Assorted Lauan (logs & flitches)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	1,849.00 board feet	Common Hardwood (lumber)
CENRO. Cmpd., Real, Quezon	8,358.00 board feet	Lauan (flitches)
Brgy. Kinanliman, Real, Quezon	5.32 cubic meters	Common Hardwood (logs)
BUNSACO Inc. Compd., Maug, Butuan City	66,011.00 board feet/ 21,021.00 pieces	Assorted species (lumber)
Freedom Woodcraft Cmpd., Butuan City	11,550.58 board feet/ 1,947 pieces	Lauan & Misc. species

Only legitimate log and lumber dealers, operators of sawmills, plywood and veneer plants shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Bidders are reminded:
1. To inspect the forest products to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit Registration/Certification documents from DTI or SEC and PWPA;
3. To submit bid on NRDC official bid form available at the NRDC-PBAC Secretariat during office hours;
4. A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of either Cash, Cashier's check or Manager's Check must be submitted together with bid.

Bidding Schedule:

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents	: August 20, 2001; 5:00 p.m.
Schedule of Pre-bidding Conference	: August 22, 2001; 2:00 p.m.
Schedule of Bid Opening	August 27, 2001; 2:00 p.m.
Place of Bidding	NRDC-9th flr. DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Automatic rebidding will be conducted on **September 3, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. in case the bidding fails due to insufficient number of participating bidders.

NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any formalities in connection thereto and accept such bids considered as most advantageous to NRDC and/or the government.

For inquiries call Telephone No. 521-9421 and Telefax 521-9486.

(Sgd.) DIOGENES S. FERREZ
Chairman BAC

(PDI--Aug. 11, 12 & 13, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-9502/03; 743-8301 to 23 local 1107, 1125

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: August 3, 2001
Loan No.: 3852 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Laboratory and Medical Equipment and Supplies.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of laboratory and medical office equipment and supplies for the Department of Health.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Building No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Facsimile No. (632) 711-6831.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased starting August 13, 2001 to September 3, 2001 by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Goods.
6. Bids must be delivered to the Department of Health, Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila on or before 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, cashier's or certified check of 2.5% of the bid amount.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 22, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 2:00 PM at the address indicated above.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
9. The Department of Health hereby receives the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to the local health units.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – Aug. 5, 11 & 12, 2001)

Fed cuts may do little to help 'new' economy

NEW YORK—Although financial markets may be clamoring for more Federal Reserve rate cuts to jumpstart the stalled US economy, the high-tech nature of this downturn may require some very low-tech government tinkering to get it moving again.

Deregulation and government spending programs rather than cheaper credit may provide the needed catalyst, according to economists.

For now, receding hopes for a US economic recovery are yanking yields on short-dated Treasuries to levels last seen in the wake of the early 1990s recession. As good news becomes scarce, markets are moving to price in more Fed cuts.

Some Wall Street firms expect the key overnight federal funds rate to dip another full percentage point to 2.75 percent by early next year to reach its lowest level since the early 1960s.

Wayne Angell, chief economist at Bear, Stearns & Co., said Thursday that the Fed would likely keep cutting rates until the end of the first quarter of 2002, as economic growth remained entrenched in a downturn that began around a year ago.

But other economists say the Fed's interest rate wand may not be able to work its magic on this "new economy" downturn, which has been focused on a rapid deceleration of spending by firms on high technology investment.

Fed rate cuts work best on interest rate-sensitive parts of the economy such as auto and home sales. But these sectors have held up robustly in the face of the economic downturn. Business investment spending, in contrast, may need a more direct remedy to cure its ills, they say.

"The fact you are starting from high levels in housing and consumer spending makes it harder to get growth going there and know that business equipment investment is not all that interest rate-sensitive," said Jan Hatzius, economist at Goldman Sachs in New York.

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta president Jack Guynn acknowledged in a Reuters interview that lower interest rates had limited power to turn the economy around.

"Some people seem to get the view that we have this magic we can work to take all of these ills away," he said.

"I worry about those that put so much emphasis on what we will do at the next meeting," said Guynn, who was currently not a voting member on the Fed's policymaking panel. "I think that, while it's certainly important, it perhaps gives too much emphasis to the role of policy even in the short term."

Despite Fed rate cuts and $38 billion in tax rebate checks dropping into Americans' mailboxes, reports of falling hotel occupancy in Manhattan, stores discounting to attract penny-pinching customers and record levels of job layoff announcements are keeping financial markets edgy.

One area where lawmakers may be using fiscal measures to spur growth is the farming sector. The $73.5-billion farm bill that would automatically funnel more money to growers when prices fall may be debated by US House of Representatives in early September.

"Will farm equipment lead the economic recovery? I can't think of an alternative sector right now," said David Hale, chief economist at Zurich Financial Services in Chicago. *Reuters*

States being hit harder than thought

SAN FRANCISCO—The US economic slowdown is hitting individual states much harder than regional officials may think, as total state employment figures, inflated by up to a million jobs, create a false sense of security, according to a new report.

The Economy.com report said combined state employment figures almost certainly painted too rosy a picture compared with the national numbers and would probably require steep downward revisions at the end of the year, wiping as many as a million jobs from the books.

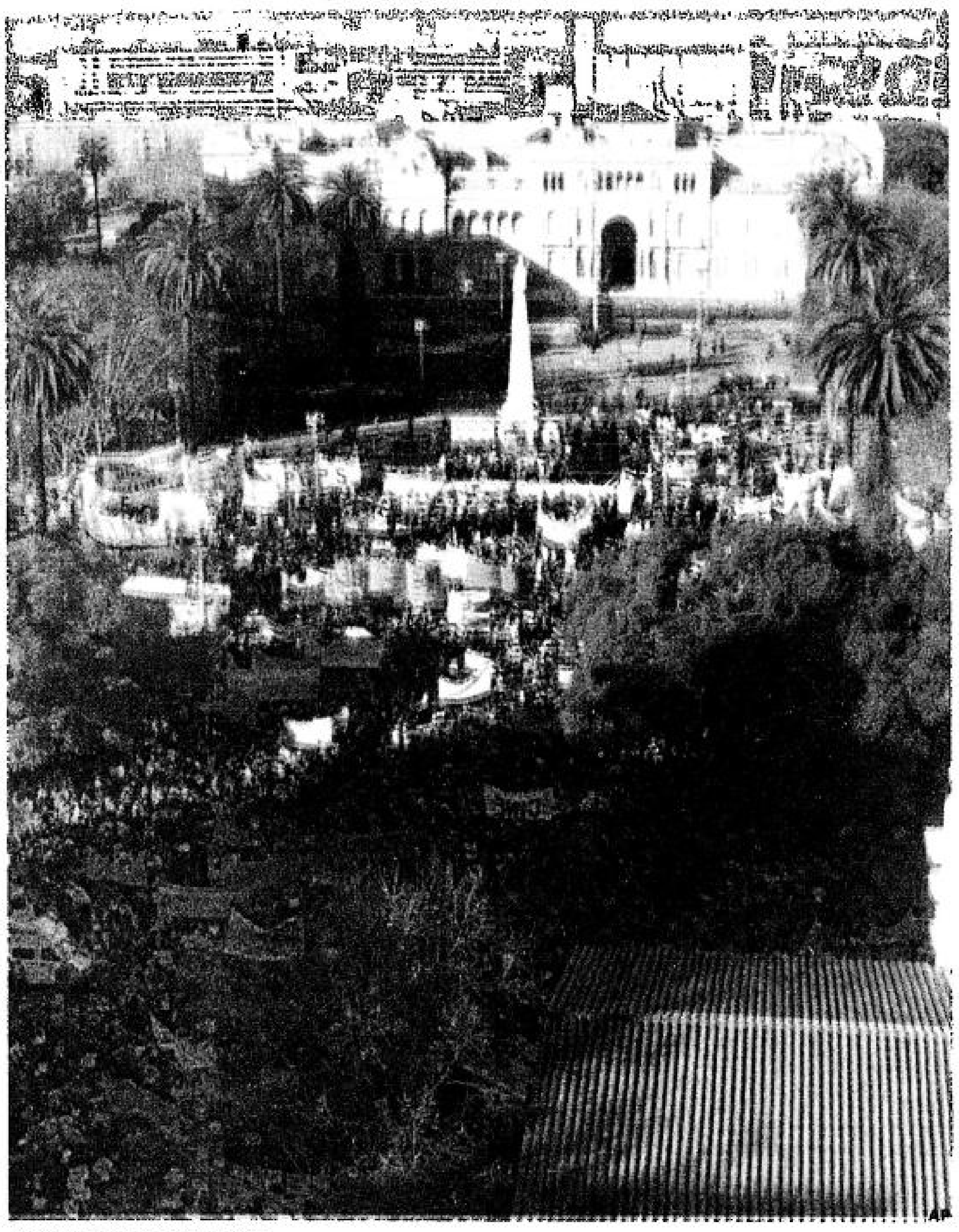
"State officials who are currently bragging how well their local economies are doing vis-à-vis the national economy may soon have egg on their faces," said a recent report from the economics and research data website.

The report comes as the US economy grapples with sagging corporate profits, job cuts and slowing growth that has left the world's biggest economy dancing on the edge of recession.

Even states such as high-tech California, which has played a major role in powering a record 10-year US expansion, have felt the effects of the slowdown.

While expressing caution about the national outlook, some state officials voiced confidence that their regions would not shed as many jobs as the report predicts.

But the report's author, Neil Bhutta, said the situation might, in fact, be worse than statistics showed. "You have to take the regional data with a grain of salt," he said in a recent interview. *Reuters*


AP

ARGENTINE STRIKE

Demonstrators march to the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, culminating two days of nationwide strikes against a government plan of wage and pensions cuts.

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Bayer kicks off huge China expansion plan

SHANGHAI—Germany's Bayer AG has kicked off a massive China expansion plan with a joint-venture deal with Chlor Alkali to build a $450-million polycarbonate plant in Shanghai.

Bayer said the joint venture, Bayer Polymers Shanghai Co. Ltd., marked the first step in the German chemical giant's $3.1-billion investment plan to set up an integrated chemical complex in the eastern Chinese city.

"This integrated chemical site, with its interlinked companies and a total investment of $3.1 billion, represents the most significant single investment in the history of Bayer," Udo Oels, Bayer's board representative for China, said in a statement.

Bayer would provide 90 percent of the capital and control that percentage of the joint venture, while Shanghai Chlor Alkali would hold a 10-percent stake, company officials said.

The $340-million first phase of the plant should be completed by 2003 and would have a capacity of 50,000 tons per year of polycarbonate, a versatile plastic resistant to heat and impact and used in everything from compact disks to automobiles.

The second phase, taking total investment to $450 million, would boost capacity to 100,000 tons and was slated for completion in 2005, executives at the companies said.

Analysts and company officials said the plant would benefit a wide range of industry in China, which now imports virtually all its polycarbonates.

"This is an important joint venture because China relies on imports for polycarbonate, a new chemical material used to make computer disks," said Gu Baocheng, an industry analyst at China Southern Securities.

Chlor Alkali spokesperson Xu Peiwen said Chinese demand for polycarbonate was about 120,000 tons in 2000 and was expected to rise more than 10 percent each year through 2005. *Reuters*

Biggest US health firm posts 2nd straight loss

NEW YORK—Aetna Inc., the largest US health insurer, on Wednesday posted a wider-than-expected loss as it struggled with dozens of problems stemming from a legacy of rapid expansion and underpriced insurance plans.

Hit by rising medical costs its biggest rivals were able to overcome, Hartford, Connecticut-based Aetna reported an operating loss that more than doubled from a first-quarter loss.

Aetna chief executive and chair John Rowe, who led a new management team that had implemented a major restructuring since his appointment in September, said it had not been easy.

"To be frank, things have been harder than I expected them to be," Rowe told Reuters in an interview. "The performance of the company is significantly worse than I expected.

"We have found about 100 problems here, each of which is contributing about one percent of the total problem. We just didn't have the kind of discipline in respect to operations."

Aetna reported an operating loss of $95.9 million, or 67 cents per share, compared with operating earnings of $36.4 million, or 25 cents a share, a year earlier. *Reuters*

Manulife reports 23% increase in net income

TORONTO—Manulife Financial Corp. has reported that its second-quarter shareholders' earnings went up 23 percent over the same period last year, reflecting the impact of the transfer of policies and assets from Daihyaku Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Japan, business growth in Hong Kong, improved margins in individual insurance and individual wealth management businesses in Canada, and improved claims experience in the accident and health reinsurance line.

"It was another quarter of significant accomplishment for our company. Our financial results were strong and we completed three important acquisitions, two in Canada and a substantial one in Japan, which position us well for the future," said Dominic D'Alessandro, president and chief executive of Manulife Financial Corp.

"As a result of the important growth in our worldwide business, we have decided to raise our corporate profitability objective to a return on equity of 16 percent," he added. "We believe this goal is achievable on a sustained basis and will allow us to compare favorably."

Singapore officially slips into recession in Q2

SINGAPORE—Singapore confirmed Friday its economy fell into recession in the second quarter after being hit by a sharp downturn in electronics manufacturing but stopped short of backing analyst expectations of a negative full year.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said gross domestic product in the second quarter fell 0.9 percent year-on-year and 10.7 percent on an annualized quarter-on-quarter basis.

But the ministry surprised some analysts by keeping its 2001 GDP growth estimate of 0.5 to 1.5 percent, which was issued after the release of advance estimates in July.

The target, cut from an earlier estimate of 3.5 to 5.5 percent growth, was considered optimistic.

"I would not want to place too much emphasis on whether it's a slight negative or slight positive," MTI's chief economist, Tan Kang Yong, told a news conference about the likelihood of the city state heading for a full-year contraction.

"In the next three months, we will be able to get a better sense of the way the slope is moving and do the necessary adjustments."

Tan said the third quarter would see year-on-year contraction as it incorporated the downswings of the first six months but would not necessarily be negative quarter-on-quarter.

Business expectation surveys indicated a prevailingly pessimistic outlook, especially among companies engaged in retailing and wholesaling, the MTI said.

"Manufacturing firms are also pessimistic about business prospects for the next six months," it said in a statement.

Depressed by shrinking global demand, manufacturing sector growth fell by a hefty 9.6 percent in the second quarter, the weakest performance since the fourth quarter of 1985.

The downdraft was led by weakness in the electronics industry, which slumped 19 percent. Electronics is a key driver of Singapore's trade-dependent economy, accounting for about 55 percent of non-oil exports.

"All key segments, except computers, saw negative growth," the MTI said, adding that related industries such as fabricated metal, rubber and plastics fell in tandem.

Growth was expected to remain weak in the third quarter, with a slow recovery expected only in the fourth quarter, it said.

"The only surprise is the official forecast has not been revised down," said Rajeev Malik, a senior economist at JP Morgan, who was maintaining his full-year forecast of a 2.3-percent GDP contraction. *Reuters*

RECALL ANNIVERSARY

Rep. Fred Upton displays a Firestone Wilderness AT model tire during a House commerce committee hearing on Capitol Hill on this June 19, 2001, file photo, looking into Ford Motor Co.'s recall of Firestone tires. One year ago, Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. bowed to pressure from consumers and safety officials and agreed to recall 6.5 million tires linked to hundreds of crashes, many of them fatal. While that recall is essentially complete, the Nashville-based tire maker still faces a mountain of challenges. AP

Taiwan GDP seen slowest in 26 years

TAIPEI—Taiwan's economy in the April-June period will likely contract for the first time in 26 years due to sluggish private investment, slowing domestic consumption as well as sharp declines in exports, according to a Reuters poll.

A survey of 10 Taiwan economists forecast second-quarter gross domestic product would contract an average 0.30 percent from the same period a year ago, the worst performance since the 4.26-percent decline in the first quarter of 1975 and down from the 1.06-percent growth eked out in the first three months of the year.

The forecast was also well below a government forecast for second quarter growth of 3.26 percent made in May.

The poor second-quarter growth meant the government's 4.02-percent forecast for this year was too optimistic and further downward revision was inevitable, analysts said.

The government originally put 2001 GDP growth at 6.48 percent in August 2000, but had since lowered its estimate as the economic fundamentals continued to deteriorate. Most economists put Taiwan's 2001 GDP growth at between 2 and 3 percent.

Economists cited the world's waning appetite for the island's electronics products—the thrust behind the export-driven economy—as another important factor behind weak investment rates.

"Compared to last year's robust growth, private investment apparently eased as imports of capital equipment showed sharp decline," said China Bills Finance economist Forest Chen, who estimated private investment to decline at least 10 percent in the second quarter from a year-ago period. *Reuters*

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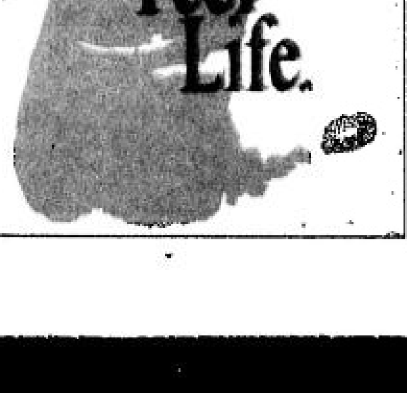

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In Loving Memory

On the 5th Death Anniversary of

Ambrosio Padilla

On August 11, 2001

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	5:15 am
Sta. Cruz Parish	6:00 am, 8:00 am
Santuario de San Jose - Greenhills	6:15 am
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori - Magallanes	6:15 am
St. James the Greater, Ayala, Alabang	6:30 am
Colegio de San Agustin	7:00 am
Sto. Domingo Church	7:00 am
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila	7:00 am
Christ the King, Green Meadows	7:00 am
St. Rafael Parish, Pasay City	7:00 am
St. Francis Parish - Shaw Blvd.	7:00 am
Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz - Binondo	7:00 am
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo	7:00 am
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Edsa	7:00 am
St. John the Baptist, Pinaglabanan, San Juan	7:15 am
St. John Bosco	7:30 am
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	7:30 am - 12:15 pm
St. Andrew Parish, Bel Air	6:00 - 6:30 pm
Basilica San Martin Tours, Taal	5:30 am
St. Jerome Emilian, St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	12:15 pm
St. James the Greater, Ayala Alabang	6:30 am
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag	5:30 am
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills	6:00 pm

His children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

CESAR ALVAREZ CRUZ

Former Asst. Principal, La Salle Green Hills H.S. Dept.

peacefully joined his Lord on August 10, 2001 at the age of 65.

His bereaved family, wife **AMELITA**; children & grandchidren **ROMMEL & LIZA**, **Rhett**, **Bluette**, **Dorothy Jean**, and **Chloe**; **MELVIN & JOYCE**, **Kyle**, **Kelly** and **Dean**; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at #14 Zenith St., North Rim-View Park, SSS Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 12, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Paul of the Cross Church, North Rim-View Park, Marikina City.

The family of

BEN H. KAPILI

February 7, 1925 - July 31, 2001

wishes to say thank you to all our friends and relatives who gave us sympathy and comfort. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are deeply appreciated.

God Bless You!

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours."

John 17:9

Our Beloved Mother and Grandmother

AMBROSIA PULIDO-LABRADOR

Died peacefully on August 8, 2001 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **ROMEO** and **AMELIA UMALI**, **DANIEL JR.** and **IRENE JOVEN**, **JULIET** and **SALVADOR LUNA**, **ZENAIDA** and **ANGEL LAZARO III**, **ANGIE** and **JAMES PE**, **TITUS** (†) and **HERMINIA ILAGAN**, **MINDA** and **DAN LUCERO**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 12, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque.

(1:00 p.m. Mass will be offered at Arlington Memorial Chapels before interment.)

A Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dr. AURORA ABEAR MIÑOZA

of Argao, Cebu
(January 4, 1923 - July 24, 2001)

thank you so much for your prayers and Mass offerings... the flowers and kind donations... the sweet messages of sympathy... the thoughtful gestures... and for just being there with us at the moment we needed you most...

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

The Municipality and People of San Marcelino, Zambales announce with deep sorrow the death of its beloved former Mayor

JUAN P. PERALTA, JR.

(27 March 1927 — 9 August 2001)

Apo Juaning, a loving husband and father, a devoted public servant, a diligent farmer and a dedicated educator, is survived by his wife, the former **Clementina Manzano Arriola**; his daughters **Marirose**, **Cleofe** (**Peñaflor**), **Lucille**, **Heidi** (**Villanueva**), and **Ana** (**Nazareno**); his sons-in-law **Joselito Peñaflor**, **Daniel Villanueva**, and **Philip Nazareno**; his sisters **Adelina Cacho** and **Eufemia Pascual**; his grandchildren and great grandchildren. His body lies in state at the family residence at No. 3 National Highway, Bgy. San Isidro, San Marcelino, Zambales. Interment will be on Sunday, the 12th of August at the San Marcelino Cemetery immediately after the Funeral Mass which will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the St. William Parish Church in San Marcelino, Zambales.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

Our Dearly Beloved

EDUARDO S. PUZON, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 8, 2001
at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Mary Larena-Puzon** (†); children **Deanna Jean**, **Debbie Ann**, **Eduardo Jr.**, **Edwin** and **Edmund**; and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. (Premiere 2) Bernardino St., cor. Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 12, 2001, 9:30 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Brgy. Tañong, Marikina City.

We, the family of the late

FERMINA M. GENERAL

who joined the Creator
on March 6, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude to everyone who condoled with us in our moment of grief.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS will be received by the FSI Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee at 5/F DFA Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City for the supply of a **COMPUTERIZED TIME AND ATTENDANCE SYSTEM**. Bid documents may be obtained beginning 9:00 a.m. Monday; **13 August 2001**, at the above address. Deadline for the submission of bids is 5:00 p.m. Thursday, **30 August 2001**. Detailed inquiries may be addressed to Mr. Manuel S. Uy, Head, General Services Section, FSI, at telephone no. 834-3933.

(Sgd.) **Romualdo A. Ong**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 11 & 12, 2001)

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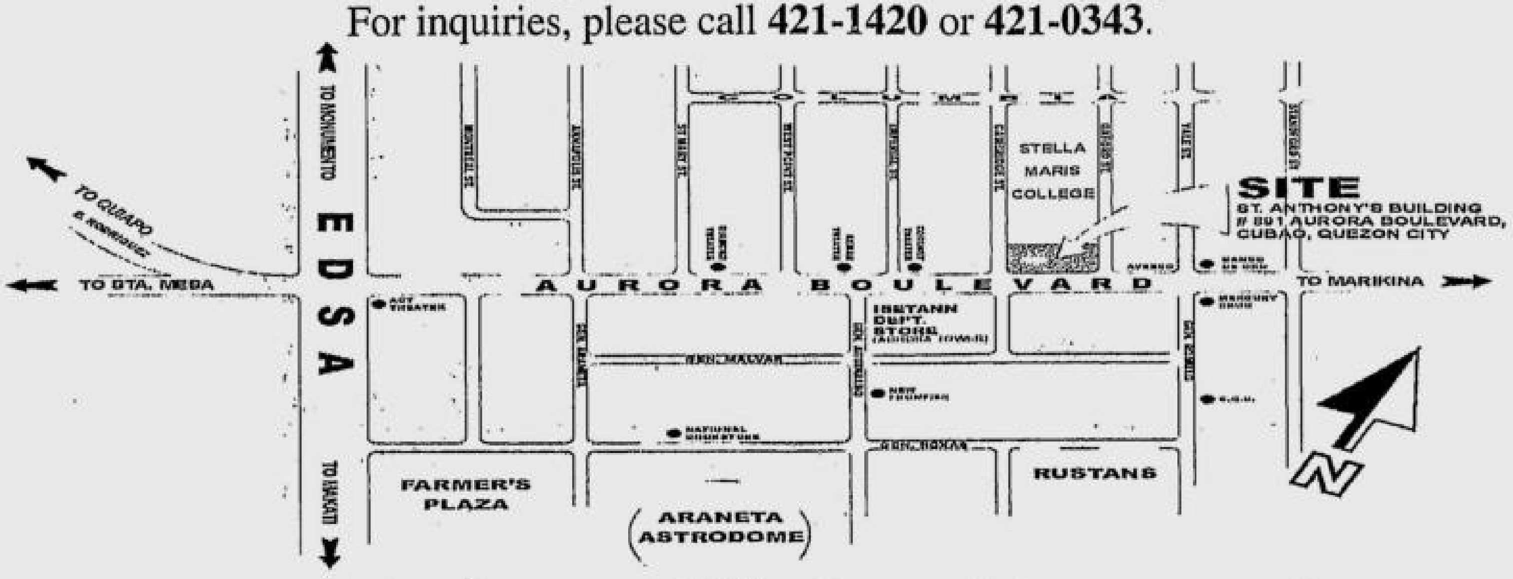


People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

NFA lauds BOC move

NATIONAL Food Authority administrator Anthony R.A. Abad lauded the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for the removal of the requirement for a clearance from the Office of the Commissioner (Ocom) for the releasing of any import shipments of the food agency.

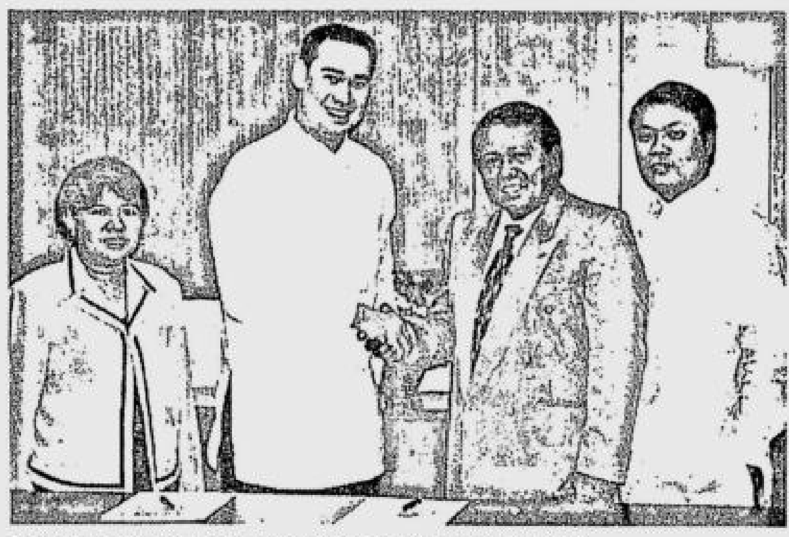
The removal of the Ocom clearance, according to Abad, will boost the stabilization program of the NFA. He said this will spare the agency of additional and or unnecessary expenses such as underguarding fees and other port charges for the importation of rice, corn and sugar by or consigned to NFA.

The NFA administrator concurred with Customs Commissioner Titus B. Villanueva that doing away with the Ocom clearance will significantly boost NFA's efforts to reduce the cost of rice for the benefit of the society's poor sectors.

In a memorandum dated May 8 to all Customs collectors and other personnel concerned, Commissioner Villanueva ordered that NFA importation shall undergo the usual clearance procedures but their covering entry and supporting documents no longer need to pass his office. Concerned customs collectors shall instead verify the shipment with the NFA regional and provincial offices.

Meanwhile, other than those imported by and or consigned to NFA, rice, corn and sugar importations shall continue to be subject to clearance from the Office of the Commissioner.

Villanueva also enjoins all customs collectors to extend the NFA the necessary assistance for the implementation of the memorandum.



LAUNDRY SERVICE CONTRACT SIGNING

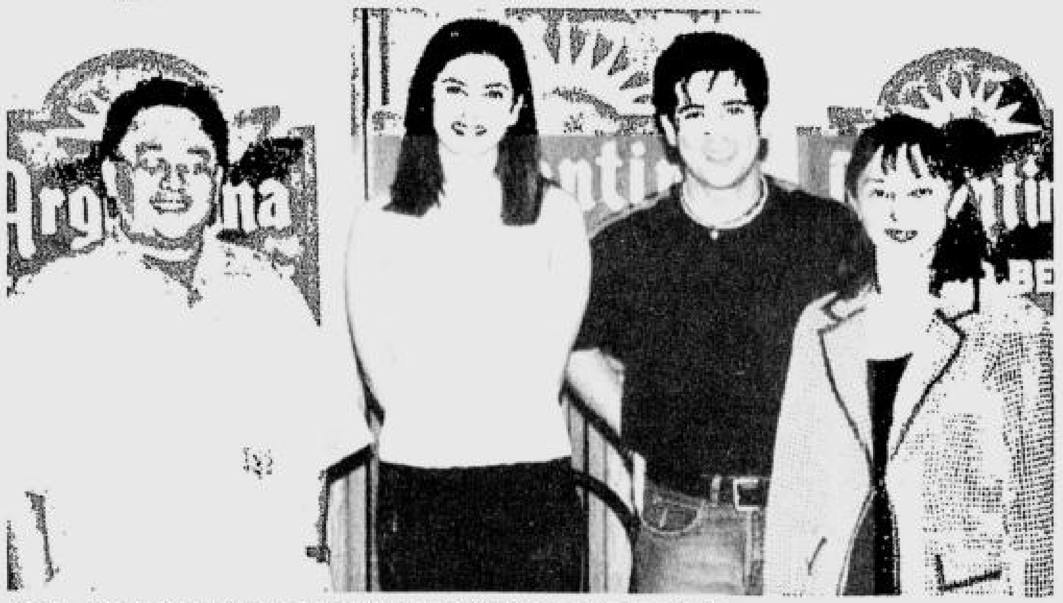
Business partners Olympia Courtyard Suites and Kalinisan Steam Laundry Inc. recently signed a contract binding the two companies. Shaking hands after the signing are Bobby R. Horrigan (left), resident manager of Olympia and Carlos D. Villadolid Jr., Kalinisan's sales and marketing manager. The Laundry service contract signing was witnessed by Gertie M. Tarin, executive housekeeper of Olympia and Ed Tapia, Kalinisan's executive assistant to the president.

RP, AUSTRALIA IN RETAIL AUTOMATION

Crossecom Pty Limited of Australia, represented by its general manager Dr. Christopher J. Back (seated, right) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Crossecom Philippines Inc. president Emmanuel L. Penson (seated, left) to establish a strong business presence locally and for the creation of business opportunities for its products. Crossecom Australia is an ISO 9001 quality assured computer services company with 22 years of experience in computer systems supply, installation, systems servicing, upgrades and research. Crossecom has over 80 technical specialists working in Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines serving the fuel industry. Witnessing the MOU signing held at the Australia Center of the Australian Embassy during the Manila visit program of the Australia ICT Trade Mission were lawyer Francisco Cantre, (corporate secretary, Crossecom Philippines) and Mark Visser, (senior trade commissioner, Australian Trade Commission).

THE 6TH CAMP COPE

Camp Cope (Children Overcoming Diabetes Problem Everywhere) provides each camper with an exciting experience that will promote leadership as well as mental, physical, social and spiritual growth. Most importantly, the experience allows each camper, shown above, to cope with diabetes in the best possible way. At the end, the campers knew more about themselves and how to cope with the changes in their daily living in a festive environment. Mead Johnson supported the camp by sponsoring one of the activities "Choice Dm Cooking". Participants made their own desert using Choice Dm, a supplement drink for people with diabetes.



AGA AND CHARLENE'S EXTRAORDINARY PHOTO

Now it can be told that Aga-Charlene love story started after this simple contract signing photo was taken sometime in the third week of October last year when Pacific Meat Company Inc. appointed the duo as image models for Argentina corned beef. The photo opportunity took place at Annabel's Garden Restaurant in Quezon City. PMCI marketing director Raffy Lantin (left) and product manager Owen Domingo-Cruz (right) believe that this simple photo would bring vivid memories to the newly wed talents.

Houses with CPAC Monier roofs are more saleable

QUALITY homes and buildings now carry the CPAC Monier trademark which has become a marketing tool for most real estate companies as the use of the CPAC Monier roof system actually adds value to properties and makes them more marketable.

More and more builders can attest to the superior performance of CPAC Monier (CMPI) tiles and this preference for CMPI products can be seen in the increasing patronage of CPAC Monier across the country. There also has been a growing number of individual residential houses roofed with CPAC Monier tiles.

Since its introduction into the local market in early 1999, CPAC Monier tiles have been installed in several projects undertaken by leading developers like Ayala Land Inc., Filinvest Inc., LPHI, Megaworld Properties Inc., Narel Construction and Development Corp., Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp., Asia Land Strategies Corp., BF Citiland Corp., Pilar Development Corp., as well as landmark projects like Vietnam Embassy and Agoo Provincial Hospital.

CPAC Monier roof tiles come in a whole range of vibrant single and two-tone colors that blend and complement any landscape or environment. The roof tiles are watertight and have special interlocking features on the top side and multiple weather bars on the underside that prevent water penetrating, thus precluding the need for undersheeting. They are exceptionally durable and are virtually maintenance-free.

CPAC Monier Phil. Inc is a joint venture of such world-renowned companies as Lafarge Group of France and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand. Backed by Redland PLC of United Kingdom (a wholly owned subsidiary of Lafarge) which is the world's leading technologist and manufacturer of roof tiles, CMPI produces concrete roof tiles that are both functional and aesthetically appealing. The tiles have been developed through years of design and research culminating in a high weatherproof performance roofing material that is affordable.

A sanctuary for smokers

A PLACE where smoking is always a pleasure. A pocket of serenity amidst the bustle of the mall. This is what the Mild Seven Smoking Lounge gives you. The perfect backdrop, in fact, for lighting up a stick of Mild Seven and taking in that smooth satisfaction.

A first in the country, Mild Seven smoking lounges have been set up in four major malls: the Festival Mall in Alabang, Robinsons Place in Ermita, Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

It's the ideal smoker's hangout. Far from the madding crowd, so to speak. It encloses you in your own world where nothing and no one can disturb you as you take those slow, sweet drags of your Mild Seven, maybe have a glass of water, and get a load off your feet. And even take home a pizza or two.

Mild Seven models will greet you at each Mild Seven smoking lounge and tell you all about Mild Seven Scratch and Draw. Simply buy two packs of Mild Seven at any of the Mild Seven Smoking Longes to join. And if you win from the scratch card enclosed, the Smoking Lounges double as a redemption center. Just show the winning card at any of our models and take home anything from exclusive Mild Seven lighters to Mild Seven CD Walkman.

You can smoke, you can relax and you can even win. Just walk in and hang out at any Mild Seven smoking lounge and enhance the pleasure of smoking Mild Seven. It's an oasis. A smoker's sanctuary.

Finex slates annual confab

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), the country's leading organization of financial executives, will be holding its annual Finex Week Celebration from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6. This was announced jointly by Bing Pasco and Menchu Seriña, this year's Finex overall chair and liaison director, respectively. The week-long celebration will include a program of activities culminating with the 27th Finex Conference on Oct. 5 at the Baguio Country Club. The conference theme for this year is "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership."

Preparations by the various committees are now underway to make this year's Finex Week an enlightening as well as fun-filled one. The activities will kick off with a sports tournament on Saturday, Sept. 29 and a day with the street children at the Enchanted Kingdom on Sept. 30, Sunday, followed during the week by an economic briefing, a symposium on ethics as a corporate way of life, the annual election of the Institute's board of directors and foundation board of trustees, the annual membership meeting, a symposium on fund sourcing for SMEs, a one-day Finex conference, the annual Finex fellowship night, and a golf tournament at the Baguio Country Club Golf Course.

Finex is also soliciting sponsorships for the various activities lined up during the Finex Week. For inquiries and registration, call the Finex secretariat c/o Sylvia M. Refuerzo at 811-4052, 811-4184 and 811-4186 or e-mail smrefuerzo@finex.org.ph.

Meat and fish processing seminar set at UP

THE GOLDEN Treasures Skills and Training Center (GTSTC) will conduct a one-day seminar on fish and meat processing at the training room of F. Benitez Alumni Center, Magsaysay corner Ylanan Street, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City on Aug. 11.

Two courses will be tackled—meat processing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and fish processing from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Among the topics to be discussed are sourcing of meat and fish materials, selecting the proper ingredients and packaging materials for selling purposes. Course I tackles making meat products such as *siomai*, beef *tapa*, *embotido*, *tocino*, *longganisa* and hamburger patties. Course 2 is all about making fish products as fish ball, bangus deboning, *tinapa*, fish burger and squid ball.

Participants will be issued a certificate of training. Seminar fee is only P1,200 and those interested may coordinate with Jenalyn or Emily on said date.

Professionals, canteen and restaurant owners, housewives, cooperative members and entrepreneurs are invited.

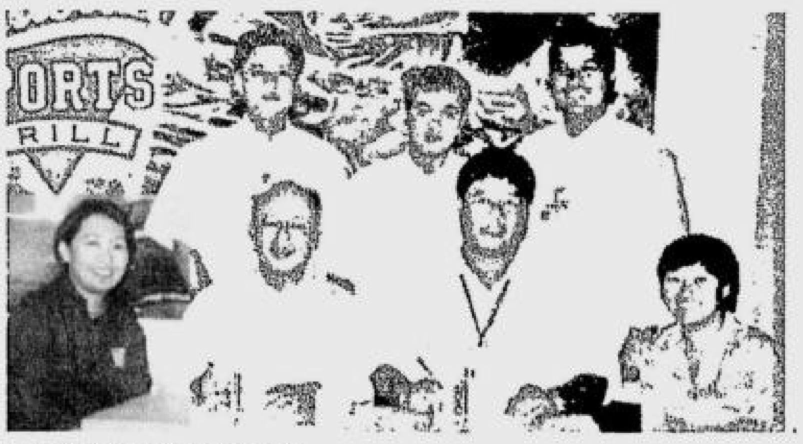
QUEZONIAN 1923 78TH YEAR

Quezonian's 1923 Inc. will observe its 78th anniversary on Aug. 25 at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel as announced by its male president Leandro P. Garcia and female president Jocelyn C. Lirio. Quezonians 1923 members are shown (seated from left) Helen Castillo, Norma Virtucio, Grace Alcañeses, Lydia Jao, Myrna Vera Cruz, Lody Rivera, Beng Biscocho and Maricha Alzona. Standing are (from left) Mila Garcia, Gladys Cabuñag, Susan Pagdanganan, Ching Sales, Linda Diamante, Cecille Lejarde (center), Flor Santiago, Jojo Lirio, Ophie Clemente, Dulce Abcede and Emy Rodriguez.

12:00nn, July 5, 2001, EDSA Shangri-

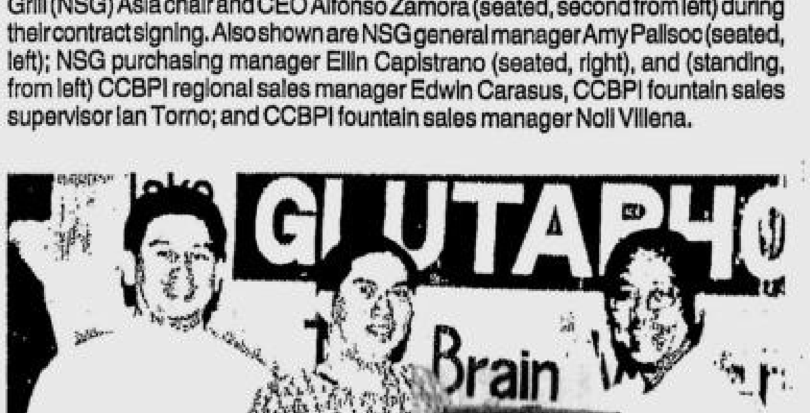
GMA-7 BACKS PRA CONFAB, EXPO

GMA-7 senior vice president for sales Serafin Bautista (second from left) signs the sponsorship agreement with the officials of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) for its 10th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia 2001 Expo to be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Aug. 15-17. Seated with Bautista are (from left) PRA president Roberto S. Claudio, conference chair lawyer Paul A. Santos, and expo chair Mars C. Chua. Looking on are (from left) Jimmy Alanis, PRA chair Bing S. Limjoco, conference co-chair Arthur Coronel, and PRA secretary general Evelyn Balmeo Salire (extreme right).



NSG SEALS THE DEAL

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI), represented by its senior assistant vice president and commercial manager Emmanuel Berbano (seated, second from right) has recently reached an exclusive partnership with National Sports Grill (NSG) Asia chair and CEO Alfonso Zamora (seated, second from left) during their contract signing. Also shown are NSG general manager Amy Palisoc (seated, left); NSG purchasing manager Ellin Capistrano (seated, right), and (standing, from left) CCBPI regional sales manager Edwin Carasus, CCBPI fountain sales supervisor Ian Torno; and CCBPI fountain sales manager Noli Villena.

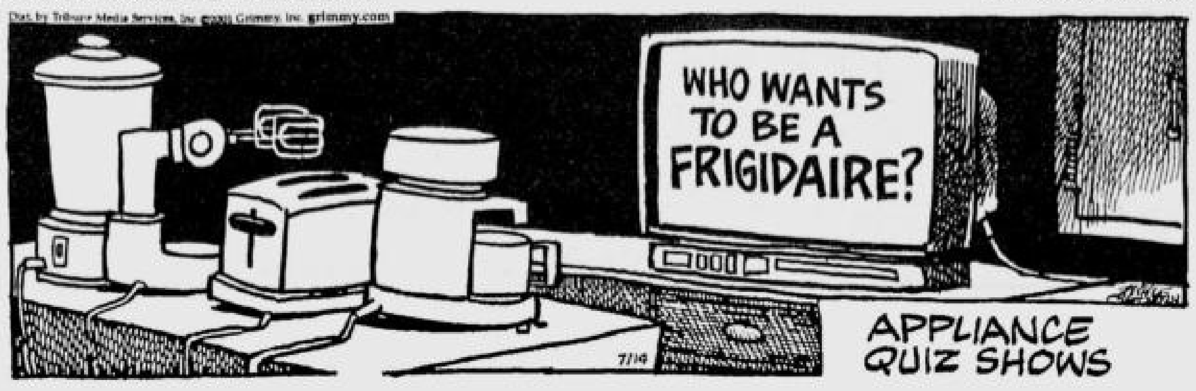


GLUTAPHOS CYBER GIVEAWAYS GRAND WINNER

Oscar B. Santos of Olongapo City, a regular taker of Glutaphos, the brain vitamin, just reaped the rewards of his daily brain vitamin intake as he won the grand prize of the Glutaphos Cyber Giveaways raffle promo. Santos won a Toshiba laptop with DVD player and Internet access. Glutaphos enhances mental alertness and helps improve retentive capacity. Shown awarding the prize is (from left) Pascual Laboratories marketing manager Nick Lansang, Jr., Santos and Pascual Lab. president and COO Manuel Salazar.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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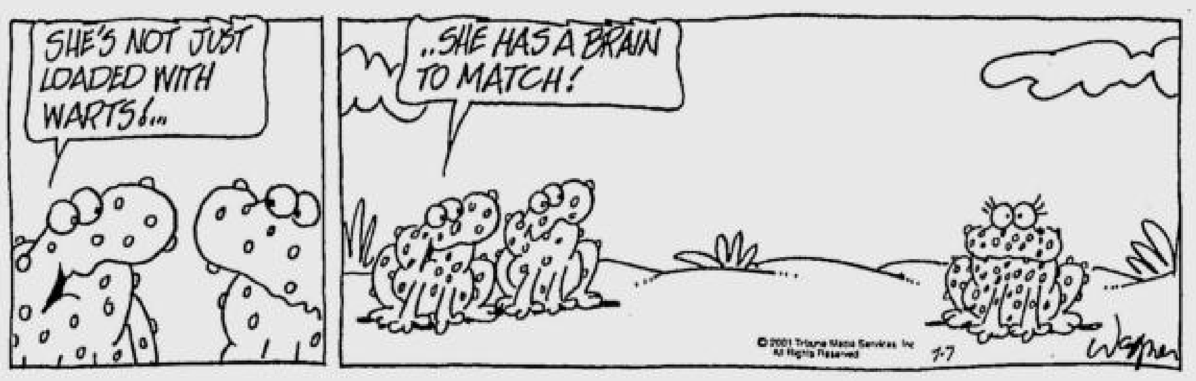
WHO WANTS TO BE A FRIGIDAIRE?
7/14
APPLIANCE QUIZ SHOWS

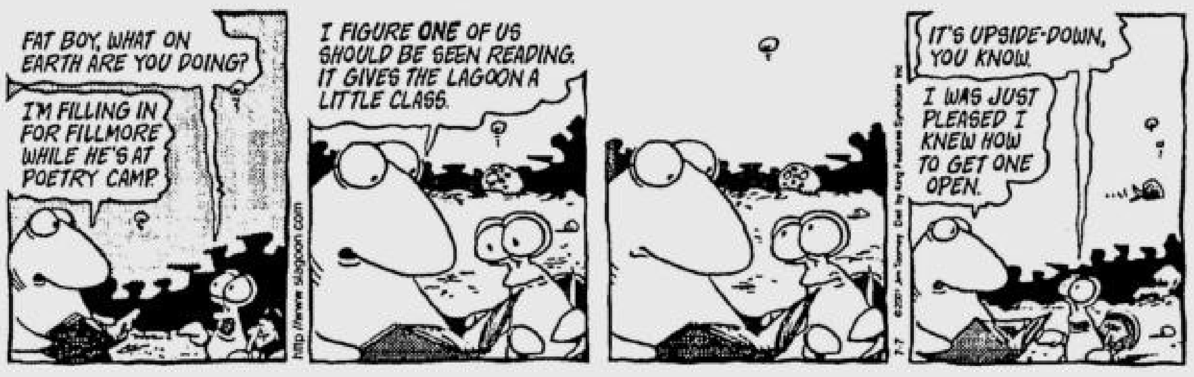
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SHE'S NOT JUST LOADED WITH WARTS!...
..SHE HAS A BRAIN TO MATCH!
©2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc All Rights Reserved
7-7
Wagner

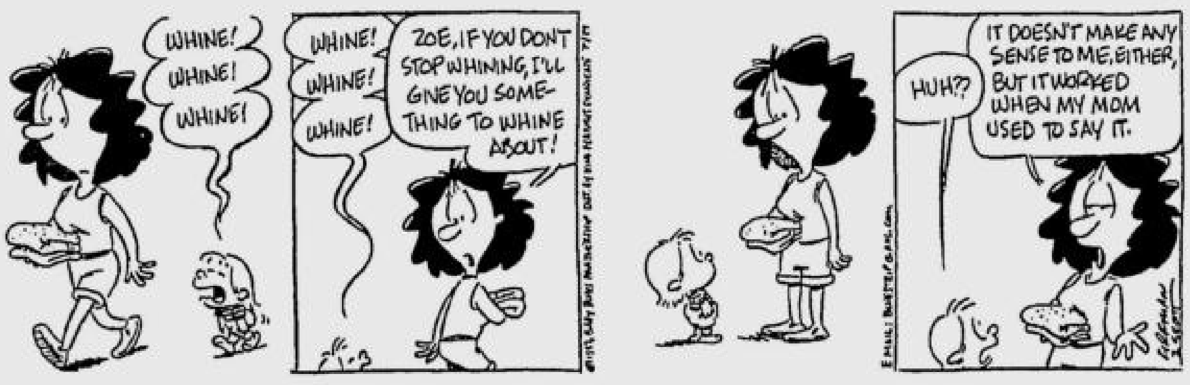
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FAT BOY, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
I'M FILLING IN FOR FILLMORE WHILE HE'S AT POETRY CAMP.
http://www.slagoon.com
I FIGURE ONE OF US SHOULD BE SEEN READING. IT GIVES THE LAGOON A LITTLE CLASS.
7-7
IT'S UPSIDE-DOWN, YOU KNOW.
I WAS JUST PLEASED I KNEW HOW TO GET ONE OPEN.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHINE! WHINE! WHINE!
WHINE! WHINE! WHINE!
ZOE, IF YOU DON'T STOP WHINING, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO WHINE ABOUT!
HUH??
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME, EITHER, BUT IT WORKED WHEN MY MOM USED TO SAY IT.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Wozniak, Marilyn Vos Savant, Jerry Falwell, Mike Douglas, Anna Massey, Hulk Hogan

Happy Birthday: Your interest in the unusual will lead to intellectual discoveries. If you listen to others and implement what you learn, you will land in a good position. The rest will be up to you. Complete what you start, and rewards will come your way. Help others to receive help in return. Your numbers: 9, 13, 24, 33, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will see things emotionally, not accurately. Don't point your finger unjustly at others. In-laws may cause difficulties. Consider travel or spending time with those having similar interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stubbornness will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. You are likely to spend the weekend alone if you aren't willing to bend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be involved in an interesting proposition today. Set a limit on the amount you're willing to spend, and stick to it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Involve yourself in group endeavors. You will have some problems with children, but patience will win their favor. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make financial contributions to impress others. You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. You will have good ideas for home-improvement projects.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look into new philosophies, although your changing attitudes may be causing your partner concern. Try to be patient with his or her inability to accept your new beliefs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let yourself get run-down. Problems with ear, nose or throat are likely. Don't let your partner get away with spending too much money. Learn to say no.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Things will be emotional with those closest to you. Remember the saying, Make love, not war, and all will be fine. You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't burn the candle at both ends. Irritability will lead to family squabbles. Take time to re-evaluate your motives regarding friendships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should be doing something special with children. Your input into their activities will help establish a closeness. You can make some favorable changes to your looks.

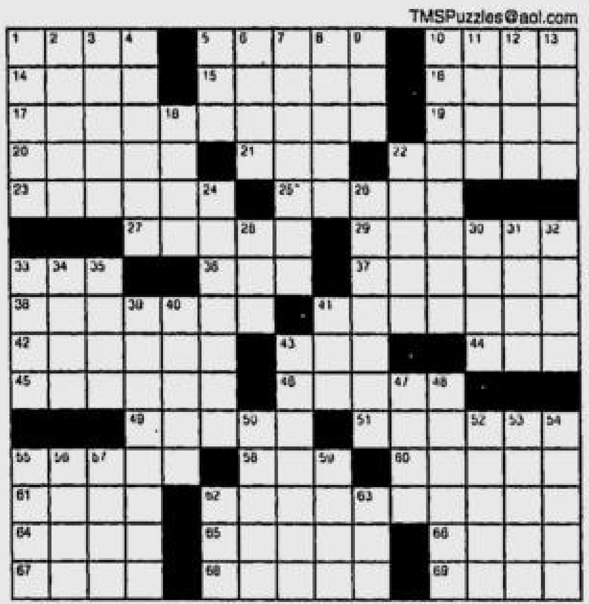
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get busy doing those household projects that you have been putting off for so long. Someone you live with will be angry if you're neglecting your duties.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to interact with others if you want to expand your knowledge. You can offer helpful hints in return. Traveling will bring new friends and experiences.

Birthday Baby: You have strong convictions and beliefs. You are loyal and loving and have great respect for others. You can be stubborn when pushed. Your steadfast nature will always help you accomplish your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

6/26/01

ACROSS
1 Oxen pair
5 Mystery excuse?
10 "__ Don't Preach"
14 Murderous board-game
15 Gainesville athlete
16 Land of Isfahan
17 Equine musical?
19 Essence
20 Earp brother
21 In favor of
22 Roofer's stone
23 Nod of the head
25 Loos or Baker
27 Singer Bonnie
29 Chair-maker's material
33 ID info
36 Fade away
37 Like opera songs
38 Stretchy
41 Implement
42 Game played with 32 cards
43 Half a fly?
44 Actor Mineo
45 Brawls
46 Pitches in
49 Odorific compound
51 Desert blooms
55 Wing movements
58 __ constrictor
60 Greene of "Bonanza"
61 Rendered fat
62 Bovine school?
64 Against: pref.
65 Ken and Lena
66 Landowner's paper
67 Stinging insect
68 Conifers
69 Nimble

DOWN
1 Neutral vowel sound
2 Stratagems
3 Invisible emanations
4 Homesteader
5 Past
6 Reindeer herdsman
7 Repeat
8 Semimetallic element
9 One Gershwin
10 Porcine language?
11 Song by Verdi
12 Ago
13 Feed the pot
18 Sicilian mountain
22 Ogle
24 Most neat and orderly
26 In an angry manner
28 Twitch
30 Sleep fitfully
31 Home of most people
32 Jodie Foster film
33 Appear to be
34 Turn on a pivot
35 Letters of salt
39 Ovine party sauce?
40 Shock or lock
41 Function
43 Add at no additional charge
47 Tug
48 Chides
50 "Christ Stopped at __"
52 Move slowly
53 Wrath
54 Shabby
55 Defect
56 Actress Turner
57 __ and crafts
59 Skin problem
62 Flatfoot
63 CIA forerunner

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	A	D	S		T	E	N	T	S		A	N	T	I
A	L	O	T		I	D	A	H	O		W	A	I	T
P	O	G	O		M	E	T	E	R	M	A	I	D	S
P	E	C	O	R	I	N	O		O	A	K	L	E	Y
		A	L	A	N	S		B	R	I	E			
S	I	T	I	N	G		R	E	I	N	D	U	C	T
A	R	C	E	D		B	A	S	T	E		S	R	O
R	A	H	S		C	A	T	T	Y		G	M	A	N
A	T	E		S	O	R	E	S		S	U	A	V	E
H	E	R	R	I	N	G	S		S	P	I	R	E	S
			A	N	T	E		S	C	A	D	S		
A	D	O	R	E	R		O	P	E	R	A	H	A	T
G	A	M	E	W	A	R	D	E	N		N	A	S	H
O	R	E	S		S	H	O	N	E		C	L	E	O
G	E	N	T		T	O	R	T	S		E	S	A	U

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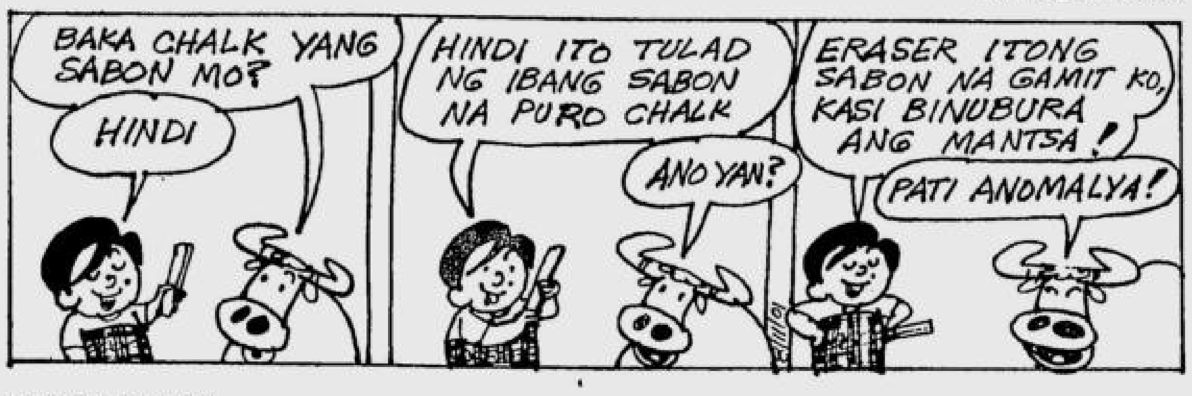
6/26/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

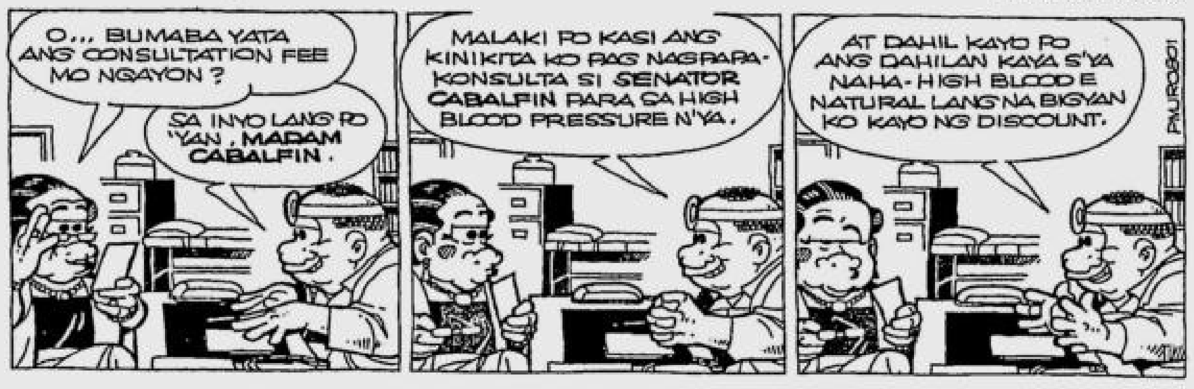
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKA CHALK YANG SABON MO?
HINDI
HINDI ITO TULAD NG IBANG SABON NA PURO CHALK
ANO YAN?
ERASER ITONG SABON NA GAMIT KO, KASI BINUBURA ANG MANTSA!
PATI ANOMALYA!

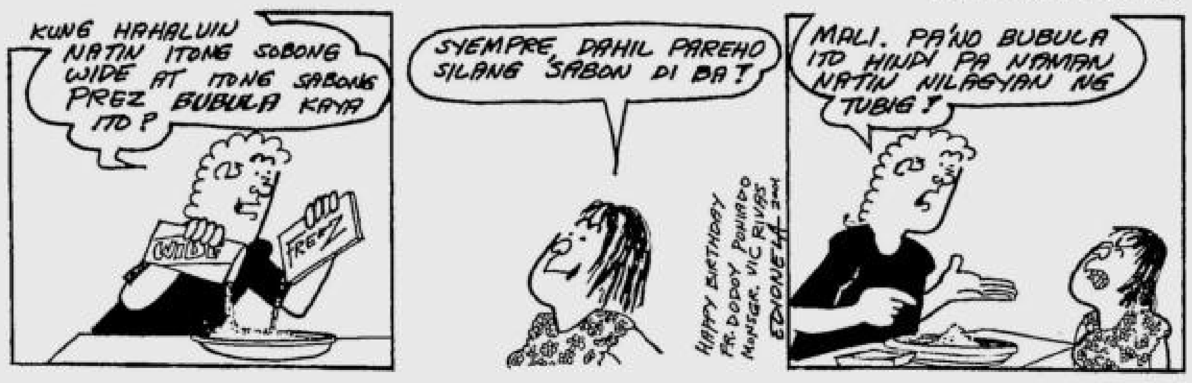
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... BUMABA YATA ANG CONSULTATION FEE MO NGAYON?
SA INYO LANG PO 'YAN, MADAM CABALFIN.
MALAKI PO KASI ANG KINIKITA KO PAG NAGPAPA-KONSULTA SI SENATOR CABALFIN PARA SA HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE N'YA.
AT DAHIL KAYO PO ANG DAHILAN KAYA S'YA NAHA-HIGH BLOOD E NATURAL LANG NA BIGYAN KO KAYO NG DISCOUNT.
PMJR0801

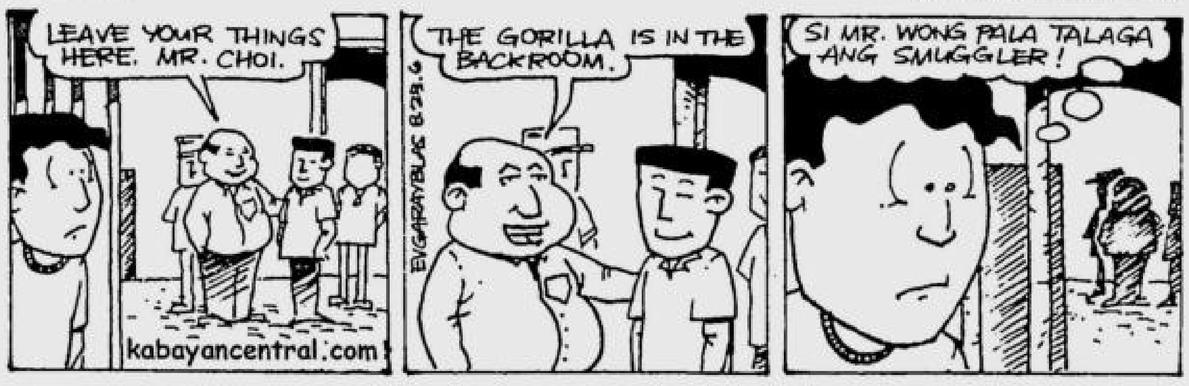
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG HAHALUIN NATIN ITONG SABONG WIDE AT ITONG SABONG PREZ BUBULA KAYA ITO?
WIDE
FREZ
SYEMPRE, DAHIL PAREHO SILANG SABON DI BA?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. DODOY POHIRDO MONSGR. VIC RIVAS
EDIONELA
MALI. PA'NO BUBULA ITO HINDI PA NAMAN NATIN NILAGYAN NG TUBIG!

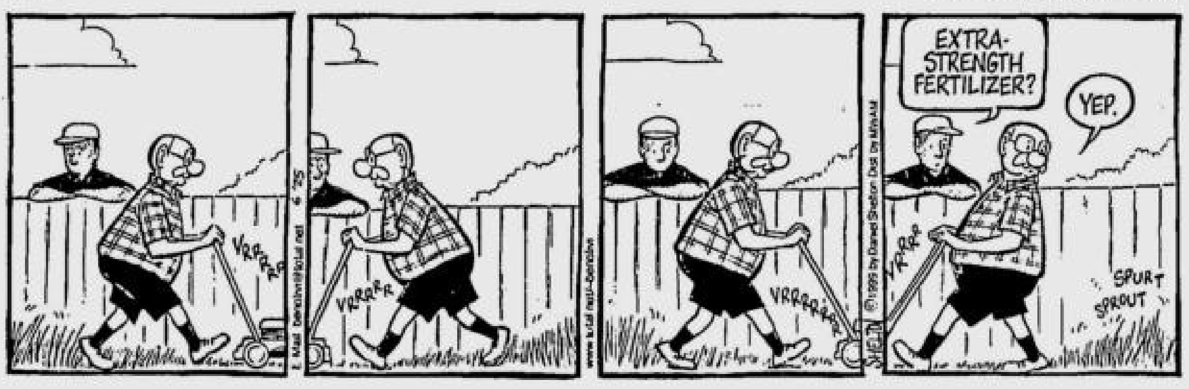
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


LEAVE YOUR THINGS HERE. MR. CHOI.
kabayancentral.com
EVGARAYBLAS 8.29.6
THE GORILLA IS IN THE BACKROOM.
SI MR. WONG PALA TALAGA ANG SMUGGLER!

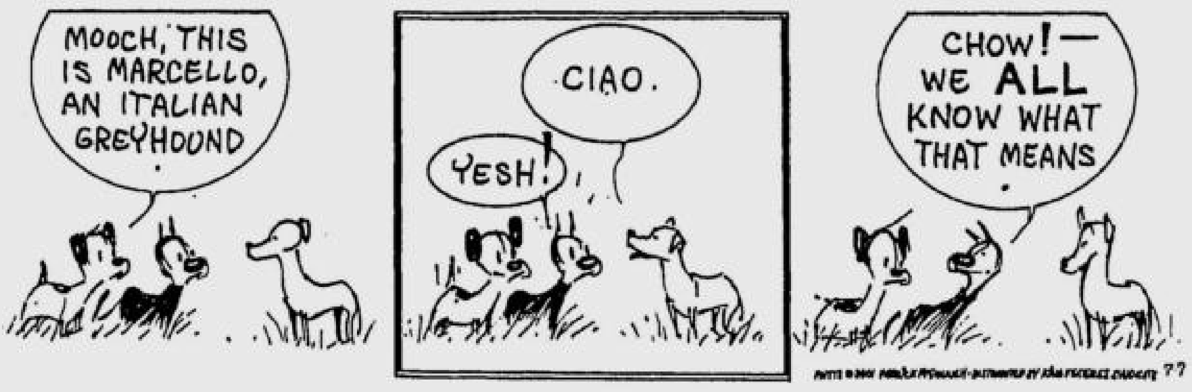
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


VRRRRR
VRRRRR
VRRRRRRR
EXTRA-STRENGTH FERTILIZER?
YEP.
VRRR
SPURT
SPROUT
SHELTON

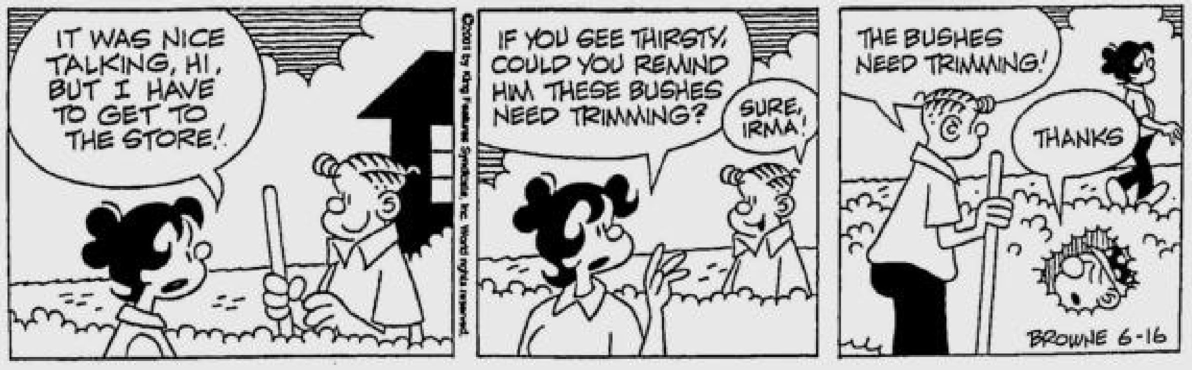
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH, THIS IS MARCELLO, AN ITALIAN GREYHOUND
CIAO.
YESH!
CHOW! — WE ALL KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS
7-7

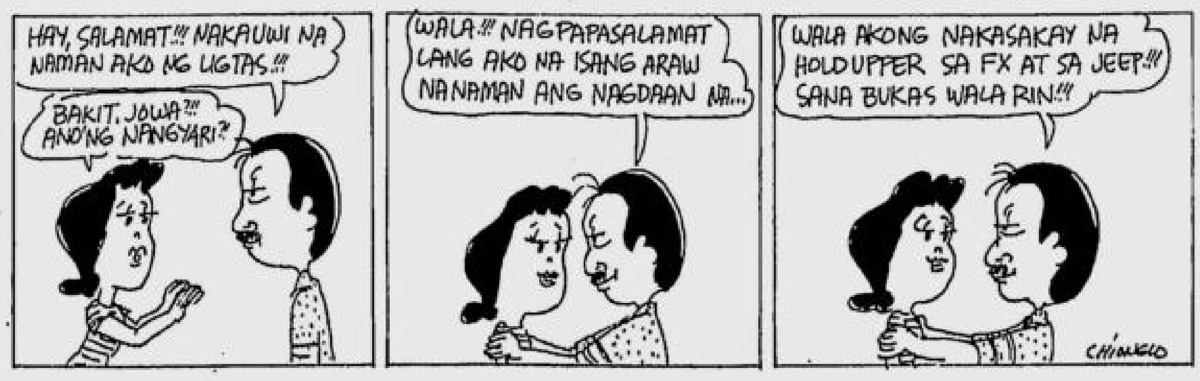
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT WAS NICE TALKING, HI, BUT I HAVE TO GET TO THE STORE!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
IF YOU SEE THIRSTY, COULD YOU REMIND HIM THESE BUSHES NEED TRIMMING?
SURE, IRMA!
THE BUSHES NEED TRIMMING!
THANKS
BROWNE 6-16

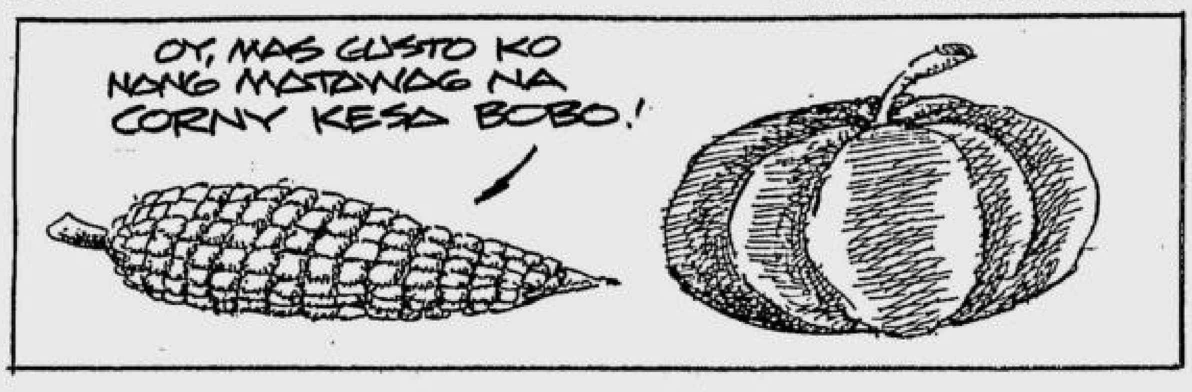
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAY, SALAMAT!!! NAKAUWI NA NAMAN AKO NG LIGTAS!!!
BAKIT, JOWA?!!! ANO'NG NANGYARI?
WALA!!! NAGPAPASALAMAT LANG AKO NA ISANG ARAW NA NAMAN ANG NAGDAAN NA...
WALA AKONG NAKASAKAY NA HOLDUPPER SA FX AT SA JEEP!!! SANA BUKAS WALA RIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, MAS GUSTO KO NANG MATAWAG NA CORNY KESA BOBO!

A patient also has rights

WHEN a person is confined in a hospital, he expects to get well, right?

But then, a lot happens between the day he checks in and when he is finally discharged. Complications may arise; there may be delays in the patient's recovery. Or the patient's stay did not turn out to be as pleasant or as restful as he expected.

Dr. Adriano V. Laudico, chair of the Pain Management Information Agency (PMAI), believes that many problems arise when a patient's complaint of pain is not promptly or properly treated. Laudico and his staff at a leading training hospital in Manila, aim to revolutionize patient care by zeroing in on the individual's complaint of pain by allowing appropriate and personalized treatment. Striving to give their patients optimum care, they also aim to make their goal "No pain after the operation" a reality.

Emphasis has been placed on the patient's right to information, particularly about pain relief measures. Laudico points out that postoperative pain is not natural and should not be taken lightly. He said unrelieved postoperative pain could lead to complications like pneumonia, heart attack, delay in patient recovery and an increase in hospital expenses.

Laudico believes that every patient has rights. The patient should expect:

- Information about pain and pain relief measures.
- Care that is respectful, high-quality, considerate, with dignity.
- Participation in decisions about treatment, benefits, risks, alternatives.
- To be heard when complaints and problems arise.
- Prompt response to reports of pain.
- A concerned staff committed to pain prevention and management.
- State-of-the-art pain management.

Before surgery, patients are educated on their rights and responsibilities regarding postoperative pain management. After surgery, health care personnel, particularly nurses, assess the severity of the pain using the postoperative pain inventory (PPI) by which the patient "scores" pain intensity and the extent to which pain interferes with deep breathing, coughing and walking.

Through a numeric scale, these pain scores allow doctors and nurses to identify and evaluate the best pain medication suitable for the patient. With a wide array of pain relievers available in the market today, it is crucial that the right medication is used. This way, the patient gets involved in the treatment and medication selection process.

Pain and inflammation after an operation can be controlled and managed through proper medication. That is why it is important that a patient discusses with his doctor and nurse what to expect in terms of pain relief, including past experiences with pain medicines. Also, the doctor and the nurse should be immediately informed when the pain continues despite medication, and if it interferes with the patient's deep breathing, coughing and walking.

Information is key to better understand pain and properly manage it. This is the main reason the PMIA was established.

Pain affects people from all walks of life. Unless managed properly and safely, pain can lead to complications that may affect the total well being of the afflicted person—possibly causing permanent immobility or even death.

For comments and insights, please write to the Pain Management Information Agency (PMIA) P.O. Box 3485 Makati or e-mail at paincare@pmia.com.ph or call up J. Cecil Barrameda at 813-3874 or fax at 813-3875.

A distinguished Filipino chemist

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IT IS but fitting that tributes to great teachers come from their students. My friend Armand Guidote, freshly armed with a doctorate, returned recently to the Ateneo de Manila Chemistry Department. He writes about a memorable scientist, Dr. Lawrence Que Jr., who is a Filipino—and a fellow Atenean. Dr. Guidote's article also gives a good idea of what university professors are expected to do. Here are his thoughts:

When one talks about big-time Filipino chemists, Lawrence Que Jr. immediately comes to mind. He has been working in the University of Minnesota since 1983 and through the years has risen up the ranks. Becoming a professor, however, is by no means an easy feat.

First, one has to be a good teacher. Dr. Que makes students feel relaxed in his class. He sports his cool, easy manner in the same comfortable way that he wears his shorts in class. His height and deep resonant voice command and maintain attention as he discusses an otherwise difficult topic. He has an uncanny ability to simplify esoteric subjects such as nuclear magnetic resonance or high-valent diiron oxo intermediates. This ability results from his mastery and deep understanding of his fields of interest.

Second, one becomes a professor after giving a significant contribution to one's field. Que and his group are investigating the phenomena that are found at the interface of biology and inorganic chemistry (biological inorganic chemistry). In specific terms, research interests in his laboratory include mechanistic studies of metalloenzymes using various spectroscopic methods, design of structural and functional models of metalloenzyme active sites, trapping of reactive intermediates and the development of metal reagents for the hydrolytic cleavage of DNA. Recently, Que started to branch out into heterogeneous catalysis. These research have an impact on environmental concerns such as the decrease in pollution levels and amount of energy usage as well as a greater understanding of basic chemistry.

Que has already more than 220 publications (with more coming) since the start of his career. These include books as well as articles in the foremost science journals like Science and Nature. He regularly published in the top journals of the American Chemical Society: Journal of the American Chemical Society, Inorganic Chemistry, Biochemistry and the very popular German chemical journal Angewandte Chemie (of course, in the English international edition).

Having one's work published is not a simple matter.. Two or three referees, scientists who are knowledgeable about the field to where the article belongs, review these papers. These referees recommend acceptance or rejection based on technical soundness and whether the work conforms to the particular journal's standards.

Third, one has to have contributed to the society or community. Que became known in chemistry circles through his participation in conferences and by publication of high-quality research results. Because of these, he has been asked to referee the works of other scientists. Due to his excellent track record, he is a member of the editorial boards of Accounts of Chemical Research and Inorganic Chemistry. Board members set journal policies and directions. In recognition of his abilities, Que has been selected to be chief editor of the Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry. As chief editor, he gives the final decision as to the publication or nonpublication of a research work once the referees have handed in their judgment.

Que is at present the 3M/Alumni Distinguished Professor and co-director of the Center for Metals in Biocatalysis at the University of Minnesota. This Filipino who graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University (B.S. Chemistry, 1969) and the University of Minnesota (Ph.D. Chemistry, 1974), has gone a long way. He has made us all proud to be Filipino.

For more information about the research interests of Professor Que's laboratory, visit his website http://bioiorg.chem.umn.edu/quespace.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for the www.inq7.net. She can be reached at the Ateneo Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City or e-mail blessbook@yahoo.com.)

DESPITE COLONIAL MINDSET

Herbal supplements getting popular

BY JUN ALANO

MORE and more Filipinos are becoming health conscious these days, not because they have realized how the fast pace of modern living has affected the quality of life in the urban centers, but because they know for a fact that they can't afford to be sick.

Going back to the age-old adage that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," people are rediscovering the wealth of healthy alternatives available in a tropical country like the Philippines, thus the proliferation of herbal products from bath soaps to tea and, more lately, food supplements.

Although these herbal products do not bear the usual glitzy and glamorous packaging of drug supplements from multinational companies, and without advertising bombardment from the popular media, the local products are proving to be more popular to consumers, especially in the lower income brackets.

Among the new products that are currently selling briskly just by word of mouth is Herbal Power, a liquid food supplement that comes in one liter plastic bottles. Herbal Power, as its label indicates, is made up of 50 percent herbal extracts, 25 percent vegetable extracts and 25 percent fruit extracts.

Admittedly, though, while these local products have the stamp of approval from the Bureau of Food and Drugs, consumers who have been used to buying only things they see and hear in advertisements, mostly from the so-called AB market, are still wary about the safety of the popular herbal supplements.

An advertising executive, who swears that she has heard many wonderful stories of cure and health improvement from the daily intake of herbal supplements, admits that had these herbal products contain the usual "A product of Timbuktu" seal, she would have no qualms gulping them.

Products like Herbal Power, then, have to rely on the good words of those who have tried it to be able to reach other consumers. Among the many active fruit ingredients of Herbal Power are grapes, mango, orange, apple, jackfruit and pineapple, all rich not only in Vitamin C but also Vitamin E, an antioxidant.

It also contains local herbs and vegetables like gabi-gabihan, lagundi, alagaw, banaba, buho, oregano, pandan, mahogany, squash, patola, alugbati and ampalaya. Taken three times daily before meals, this healthy concoction is said not only to improve the immune system but also cure life-threatening diseases.

Ampalaya tea gets medical groups' nod

CALL it nature's miracle or a scientific breakthrough of nature's potent wonders, being extensively researched and clinically proven safe and cost-effective.

These are the reasons that make Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink a herbal dietary tea supplement composed of dried bits of fruits and seeds of ampalaya (Momordica charantia), long recognized and scientifically validated for its antidiabetic properties has gained the unprecedented acceptance of prestigious medical organizations.

The Philippine Academy of Family Physicians and the Philippine College of Physicians being included on the roster attests to such a significant achievement for a herbal product that has been in the market for just about less than two years, Charantia, registered by the Bureau of Food and Drugs in 1999, is now available in leading drugstores nationwide.

Indeed, the herbal industry is still on its infant stage and there are very few herbal products trusted by the medical community. But then, Lito Abelarde, chair of The Herbal Enterprise which manufactures Charantia, says the bitterless ampalaya tea has been steadily gaining popularity and acceptance from diabetic patients, doctors and other healthcare professionals due to its real blood sugar-lowering ability.

Invitations

Apart from the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians and the Philippine College of Physicians, Charantia this year was also invited to participate in the conventions of the following biggest medical organizations in the country: the Philippine College of Gerontology and Geriatrics; Nutritionist-Dietitians Association of the Philippines; and the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine. On Aug. 23 and 24, the product will be a participant at the First Philippine National Convention on Preventive Cardiology, spearheaded by the Foundation for Lay Education on Heart Diseases Inc.

Charantia has also been receiving more and more invitations from diabetic clubs and health centers for product sampling with doctors' consent, which includes the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clubs, Diabetes Club of Cavite, Los Baños and Calauan Health Centers and the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines-Laguna Chapter, whose president Dr. Guia Abad, who is known as the "Mother of the Magna Carta for Municipal Health Workers," fully endorses Charantia.

Abelarde says his team reaches out to public health centers to cater to diabetics in the lower income class and to ensure continuous compliance to recommended regimen. "Charantia is an alternative product that is not only standardized in quality, convenient and pleasant-tasting, but also affordable," he says. "Diabetics are desperate in looking for something that will relieve their condition. This herbal supplement gives them hope of relief from this long-life disease (diabetes). That's why we've made it affordable for continuous maintenance. Price should not be an obstacle. Up to now, in spite of the inflation, we have not changed the price."

The product, manufactured through a unique dehydration technology that locks in the plants' vital elements while removing most of its notorious bitter taste, is available in 70- and 30-gram packs. The big pack can make 120 glasses or 30 liters (enough for a month's supply at four glasses a day) and is retailed at only P195. The smaller pack costs P95 and can make 50 glasses, enough for a 12- to 13-day consumption.

Control of diabetes

"A proper diet that includes Charantia plus regular exercise and medication—this is the formula for the successful control of diabetes," says Dr. Gary S. Sy, medical director of Life Extension Medical Center and diplomate in geriatric medicine who advocates diet-nutritional therapy and alternative medicine. He's a multiawarded medical practitioner, a, health columnist and also a medical broadcaster. Abelarde says the Charantia factory, which follows good manufacturing practices, will be formally inaugurated this month at the PDC Commercial Center in Pilar Village, Las Piñas City. Also in line with the company's commitment to continuously bring the fruits of its production to the greater majority of Filipinos, Charantia in tea bag and tablet forms will also be launched during the event.

Contrary to the folkloric belief that the bitter this vegetable is, the more medicinal value it has, Abelarde says taste has very little to do with ampalaya's effectiveness as shown in the significant improvement of diabetic users' glucose tolerance. Diabetics who have added four glasses of Charantia as supplement in their daily regimen, he adds, have reported a lowering and stabilizing of their blood sugar at a normal level.

Positive feedbacks not just from local consumers but also from those abroad have kept pouring in through the company's e-mail address info@herbcare.com.ph, says Abelarde.

The case of the pulseless housewife

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

DR. Ronald Santos, chief resident at the Manila Doctors' Hospital, could not hide his puzzled look as he reviewed all the medical cases admitted by his junior residents that day. Rizza D., a 30-year-old housewife, was rushed to the emergency room for severe difficulty of breathing. A few months earlier, she was admitted in another hospital for marked chest pains and was diagnosed to have an extensive heart attack.

"This is most unusual," Dr. Santos told the admitting resident. "Her risk factor profile looks clean, and she appears to be least likely to develop narrowing of the arteries due to atherosclerosis." He stressed that Rizza had none of the usual risk factors like diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, elevated cholesterol or overweight. "Women generally start to develop cardiovascular disease after menopause, but it is certainly most unlikely at the age of 30," explained Dr. Santos.

" What then do you think it is, chief?" the residents and interns chorused.

"I wish I knew. There are just a lot of gaps and loose ends in this case. We need to find out."

Dr. Santos and his medical residents and interns went to see the patient in the ward. A more detailed history revealed that a few weeks before her heart attack, Rizza had flu-like symptoms characterized by malaise, fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, joint and muscle pains. These symptoms gradually waned but still bothered her on-and-off. She had two episodes of fainting which she attributed to just exhaustion but she could not explain the temporary slurring of her speech during one of the episodes. "It was actually a transient ischemic attack or a warning stroke," Dr. Santos explained.

Pulseless

On physical examination, Dr. Santos had difficulty getting Rizza's blood pressure. Her pulses were markedly faint; in fact, she had no palpable pulses on both wrists although she didn't look like she was in shock. "She's pulseless, but she's very much alive," remarked Dr. Santos. He then proceeded to use his stethoscope on Rizza and noted her carotid bruit, an abnormal sound brought about by partial narrowing of the neck arteries.

MEDICAL FILES

"I think we have a diagnosis," Dr. Santos said confidently as he revised the admitting impression on the chart to Takayasu's arteritis.

Takayasu's arteritis or TA, named after the physician who first reported this disease, is also known as Pulseless disease. It is an inflammatory disease of unknown cause that affects the main artery of the body called the aorta. The aorta's branches are also generally involved. For unknown reasons, it has a predilection for young Asian women, typically between 15 and 30 years of age. Female patients outnumber males 8:1.

About 50 percent of patients develop an initial systemic illness with the same symptoms Rizza experienced. This phase gradually subsides and is followed by a chronic stage characterized by inflammation of the aorta and its branches. In this stage, the blood vessels weaken and may make them balloon out called aneurysms.

The vessels of the aortic arch are particularly vulnerable, and may become occluded. Syncopal or fainting episodes and transient ischemic attacks or warning strokes may be experienced. Heart failure, just like what Rizza had, is also a common reason for admission to a hospital. This may be due to elevated systemic blood pressure (although determining the blood pressure may be difficult), and narrowing of the heart arteries.

On physical examination, one can elicit markedly diminished or absent pulses and an artificially low or unobtainable blood pressure in involved arteries arising from the aortic arch. The pulses are generally strong and brisk in the legs, where the true blood pressure must be obtained and monitored. Looking at the eye grounds called fundoscopy may reveal wreathlike arteriovenous anastomosis or interlinkage of the fine blood vessels in the optic fundi or eye grounds.

Survival

Many patients with TA do well for years. In the absence of major complications such as stroke, heart attack, heart failure and aneurysm, the 5-year survival is 95 percent. In the presence of major complications, the survival is less than 50 percent.

Treatment during the initial stage may consist of high-dose steroids (prednisone), which should be maintained until symptoms subside, and then gradually tapered off. Some patients with lingering symptoms may require treatment for several months. Cyclophosphamide may be added in steroid-resistant cases. Some clinical trials suggest that early treatment with steroids and/or cyclophosphamide may lessen long-term complications in the affected blood vessels. Blood thinners such as warfarin and the so-called antiplatelet drugs like aspirin, dipyridamole, ticlopidine and clopidogrel may also help to prevent the formation of blood clots.

Surgery may be needed during the late stage of the disease to reestablish blood flow in occluded arteries. Balloon angioplasty to open up narrowed blood vessels may be done in selected cases. Surgical resection and repair may also be required for aortic and arterial aneurysms.

"You're great, chief," said the residents as Dr. Santos finished his explanation. "We never thought it might be Takayasu's arteritis."

"Nothing to it," Dr. Santos quipped, "you just have to do your history and PE more thoroughly next time."

He then headed back for the residents' quarters. Another long day in the life of a medical chief resident.

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com ph.)

Bayer withdraws cholesterol-lowering drug

LEVERKUSEN—Bayer has withdrawn all dosages of its cholesterol-lowering drug with the brand names Baycol/Lipobay (whose active ingredient is cerivastatin) with immediate effect throughout the world, except in Japan, and is withdrawing supplies of the product currently in the market.

The reason for this voluntary action lies in increasing reports of side effects involving muscular weakness (rhabdomyolysis), especially in patients who have been treated concurrently with the active substance gemfibrozil despite a contraindication and warnings contained in the product information. Japan is unaffected by this move because gemfibrozil is not available there.

"We have decided on this action in the interest of patient safety. We will continue to conduct further assessments over the next few months to evaluate the benefit/risk ratio of cerivastatin," explains Dr. David Ebsworth, head of Bayer's Pharmaceuticals Business Group. Any possible resumption of the marketing of certain dosages of Baycol/Lipobay will be the subject of extensive consultations between Bayer and the regulatory authorities.

In view of the financial burden and loss of earnings for Bayer's health care segment resulting from the withdrawal of its cholesterol-lowering drug, as well as the continuing weakness of the world economy, which particularly affects the industrial business, it is now assumed that earnings for the full year will fall substantially short of previous estimates. The target of a 20 percent return on sales (before exceptional items) in the health care segment in 2002 can no longer be met.

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

'Blinding' problems stare Filipinos in the face

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

SOMETIMES being "blind" doesn't necessarily mean not being able to see.

According to the World Health Organization, of the eight million blind people in the Western Pacific region, more than 80 percent live in only three countries—China, Philippines and Vietnam. China accounts for almost two thirds of that number. The Western Pacific's eight million represent 20 percent of the world's total number of blind people.

The prevalence rate for blindness in the countries covered by WHO's Western Pacific region ranges from 0.5 percent to just over one percent.

The figure is deceptively small. In the Philippines, according to the University of the Philippines Institute of Ophthalmology's 1995 National Survey of Blindness, the prevalence of visual disabilities nationwide was 4.87 percent, translating to about three million Filipinos. Of this number, 480,000 are blind in both eyes and 720,000 blind in one eye. So, how "blind" are the rest of the two million Filipinos?

Visual disability, blindness

Associated Eye Specialists partner Dr. Victor L. Caparas described "visual disability" as visual acuity no better than 20/70, and "blindness" as having vision worse than 20/400.

Optometric Association of the Philippines information and publication chair Carmen Abesamis-Dichoso said that a person with a visual acuity of 20/70 means that he or she needs to approach the object within 20 feet to be able to see it. People with normal vision would see the object 70 feet away.

The most common causes of visual disabilities and blindness vary from country to country. Some of these include vitamin A deficiency in children, trauma in adolescents, cataract, trachoma and glaucoma in adults.

A cataract is described as the loss of transparency of the lens of the eye. This condition accounts for 61 percent of all visual disabilities.

Refractive errors—nearsightedness and farsightedness—account for 22 percent and glaucoma 3 percent.

"The rest of the causes are almost insignificant compared to cataract," Caparas observed.

Dichoso lamented that cataract is still a major problem in the Philippines. She said the country performs about 600 cataract surgeries for every one million people. She said 400,000 people in the Philippines are blind due to cataracts.

"We don't have the money to operate on all of them," she commented.

The prevalence of blinding cataracts for Filipinos is estimated at 0.54 percent, or approximately 370,000. Cataracts account for 77 percent of all cases of bilateral blindness (blindness in both eyes), while glaucoma accounts for 8 percent.

Females susceptible

More females seem to be susceptible to visual disabilities. They comprise 57 percent of Filipinos with visual disabilities.

Caparas, who was involved in the first national survey of blindness as a member of the UP Institute of Ophthalmology, added that more females develop some degree of visual disability starting during the third decade of their lives.

More than 60 percent of all Filipinos with visual disabilities are over 60 years old.

Meanwhile, seven million Filipinos suffer from error of refraction, according to the OAP.

"These are the Filipinos who should be wearing eyeglasses but do not. Either they don't have money to buy eyeglasses or they don't know they have eye problems," said Dichoso.

She added that about 1.7 million are afflicted with low vision.

"Of 4,900 elementary public school children in San Juan, 30 percent of them have error of refraction," said Dichoso, quoting a Central Colleges of the Philippines College of Optometry prevalence study of myopia.

Accidents

Sometimes visual impairment is a result of an accident. About 100,000 Filipinos are visually impaired due to eye injuries. Dr. Leo Cubillan's article cited the National Eye Injury Registry of the Institute of Ophthalmology and the UP-PGH Department of Ophthalmology showing that 54 percent of persons who incur eye injuries are between the active ages of 20 and 40 years old. Almost 50 percent of these injuries, he said, are from accidents caused by objects such as nails, wires, barbecue sticks and broken bottles.

"The good news is that 90 percent of all eye injuries are preventable," he said.

On a positive note, the UP-PGH Institute of Ophthalmology observed a 35 percent decrease in the prevalence of blindness in the country from 1987 to 1995. The institute credits the improvement to the implementation of cataract eradication programs and the increase in the number of ophthalmologists.

Metro-based

According to a 1989 study by Caparas and Dr. Salvador Salceda, more than 70 percent of all ophthalmologists are based in Metro Manila.

"With about 1,500 ophthalmologists today, that means that about a thousand serve the 10 million of NCR. Less than 500 serve the remaining 65 million," Caparas said.

The study said the highest prevalence of visual disability was in Western Mindanao, followed by Central Luzon. Metro Manila ranked 10th.

Dichoso said there are about 9,000 registered optometrists in the Philippines, and 5,000 to 6,000 of them are in active practice.

"People think we are here just here to do eyeglasses," lamented Dichoso.

She said optometrists play an important role as ophthalmologists' frontliners. Optometrists can initially detect damaged eyes, make referrals to ophthalmologists if surgical operations are necessary and conduct pre- and post-operative checkups.

But these "frontliners," Dichoso said, are not yet included in the health care system of the government, unlike in many developed countries and even in many countries in Asia.

BABY Eunice's eyes are measured by a doctor. The 9-month-old girl suffers from a retinal abnormality and needs to wear contact lenses.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Through a child's eyes

NINE-month-old Eunice cries at top of her voice. Three women hold her tight. For three seemingly endless minutes, one of the women gently opens the infant's right eye and carefully inserts a transparent object in it. The struggle and the crying stop as the baby's eyes explore the room. She gazes at the people around her, spots her red ball and eagerly grabs it.

Teary eyed mother Mae Dumapig has once more successfully placed specially designed extended wear contact lenses on her child's eyes. These lenses last up to two days until the next cleaning.

Eunice has to wear the lenses that have a grade of 2800 for the right eye and 3000 for the left eye.

Her mother has been trained by optometrist Dr. Carmen Abesamis-Dichoso how to put on Eunice's contacts. It was four months ago when Mae placed the contact lens on her daughter's right eye for the first time. This was after Eunice's right eye was operated on for retinopathy of prematurity, an affliction of premature babies who do not develop retinas.

Dichoso, who specializes in child treatment, teaches parents the proper use, handling and maintenance of contact lenses for their children.

Mae, Eunice and her nanny traveled all the way from Capiz to catch an appointment with Dichoso at the Medical Plaza. Dichoso did a pre- and post-progress check on Eunice's eyes after her operation at the Makati Medical Center.

Dichoso was needed for important reasons: she would know if Eunice developed infections, if the lenses were overworn, or if the baby was allergic to eye solutions.

How many more Eunices are out there?

Dr. Sherman O. Valero, the retinologist who performed Eunice's operation for free, said that there are no available data on the actual number of ROP cases in the Philippines. He says however that it may be on the rise.

"ROP is becoming prevalent because the survival rate of premature babies is getting higher." said Valero.

Not all premature babies, however, need to wear contact lenses so early in life. Valero said many babies improve their eyesight depending on the severity of the ROP.

Tessa R. Salazar

Doctors run total eye care clinic

PEOPLE with eye problems usually go either to the hospital or an eye clinic to have a check up. On the other hand, people with myopia or astigmatism go to optical centers to be fitted with eyeglasses or contact lenses. But what should one do if he is unsure of his or her eye condition?

"You should go to an eye doctor or an ophthalmologist to have a thorough eye examination and make sure that your eye problem is no more than shortsightedness," says Dr. Eduardo Pardiñas, one of the ophthalmologists of the Manila Eye Specialists, a multi-specialty group practice eye center in Manila.

While eye doctors clinics sometimes also dispense eyeglasses, their collection of eyeglass models is often limited, Pardiñas said. On the other hand, while an optical store may offer a varied collection of fancy and brand name glasses and contact lenses, their staff may not be skilled enough to recognize different eye problems.

"This is the reason why we started Manila Eye Specialists five years ago," says Dr. Manny Priela, one of the clinic's pioneers. "This is the only place that offers the total range of services for eye care, from the most sophisticated microsurgery like corneal transplant, retinal detachment, laser surgery to the most basic service of refraction and eye glass prescription."

Ten ophthalmologists, all distinguished in their respective subspecialties, run the clinic. They are assisted by a team of equally competent optometrists.

"What is comforting to the patient or client is that the clinic not only offers a full spectrum of comprehensive eye services, it also makes readily available the expertise of variedly sub-specialized eye doctors," adds Priela.

Treatment goes beyond the actual procedure, accounting for the clinic's holistic approach. This total treatment includes special monitoring by an attending specialist to ensure that the patient's eye problems do not recur.

With Manila Eye's complement of reputable and variedly disciplined eye doctors, clients are assured of the best quality service. The center's ophthalmologists have undergone clinical fellowship studies in the United States.

Manila Eye Specialists is located at 1238 Gov. Forbes St., Sampaloc, Manila. Inquiries at Tel. Nos. 743-8583 or 781-8474

COMMON EYE CONDITIONS

Nearsightedness (myopia): you can see close or near objects clearly, but distant ones not as clearly.

Farsightedness (hyperopia): distant objects are seen clearly, but close ones appear blurred.

Astigmatism: vision is blurred at all distances because the light entering the eye cannot be brought to a single focus.

Presbyopia: the crystalline lens of the eye gradually loses its ability to bring close objects into clear focus. It becomes noticeable when you reach your early-to-mid-40s and is a natural part of aging.

Ablyopia (lazy eye): the loss or lack of full development of vision in one eye. It is usually due to conditions such as crossed eyes (strabismus) or a large difference in the refractive error between the two eyes.

Cataract: the normally clean lens within the eye becomes cloudy or opaque. Many factors can contribute to its development, including advancing age, heredity, injury, disease, excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation and use of certain medications.

Glaucoma: the internal fluid pressure of the eye rises to a point that the optic nerve is damaged. It frequently occurs in individuals over 40 years old and there is a hereditary tendency in some families.

Conjunctivitis: the infectious form, commonly known as "pink eye," is caused by virus or bacteria. Allergies to pollen, cosmetics, animals or fabrics often bring on allergic conjunctivitis. Irritants like air pollution, noxious fumes and chlorine in swimming pools may produce chemical conjunctivitis.

Strabismus (crossed eyes): the eyes are not properly aligned with each other. Failure of the eye muscles to coordinate properly can lead to crossed eyes. Excessive eye focusing effort in farsighted children can also result to it. It has a tendency to be hereditary.

Dry eyes: the eyes do not produce enough tears or they produce tears but these do not have the proper chemical composition. It can result from the normal aging process, exposure to environmental conditions, problems with normal blinking or from medications like antihistamines, oral contraceptives or antidepressants.

Spots and floaters: semi-transparent or cloudy specks or particles within the fluid inside the eye that are noticeable when they move within the line of sight. Small flecks of protein and other matter become trapped during the formation of the eye before birth and remain in the eyes' jelly-like fluid. They may also be caused by aging or eye injuries or diseases.

Color deficiency: a person's ability to distinguish certain colors and shades is less than normal. The condition is usually inherited but can also result from certain diseases, trauma or as a side effect of certain medications.

OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Skinhelp now on its 2nd year

AFTER A CHALLENGING but successful year of educating the Filipino public about the importance of skin, hair and nail health, the Philippine Dermatological Society and its campaign partner, Johnson and Johnson Philippines, renewed their commitment to the Skinhelp health information program through a memorandum of agreement.

The partnership will help further the cause of Skinhelp to arm the public with the basic knowledge to keep the skin, hair and nails healthy and prevent them from contracting diseases.

PDS president Dr. Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco explained that last year the program focused on the development and production of the first set of educational materials in English and Pilipino versions. For this year, however, she said that Skinhelp also intended to expand the educational materials, continue with the lectures in schools and health centers, and provide continuing medication education and research opportunities in dermatology.

For J&J Philippines, GM Crescenciano D. Toledo said that J&J stands firm in its commitment to support Skinhelp through an educational grant.

Human cloning: Playing God?

(First of two parts)

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS

IN THE 1970s show "Spiderman," an evil scientist took a blood sample from Spiderman and produced a clone who knew the superhero's secret identity. Evil Peter Parker and good Peter Parker then met and battled. Of course, the evil clone died by show's end, or the series would have had an untimely conclusion.

In "Superman IV," Lex Luthor managed to get a DNA sample from Superman's hair (which was supposed to be impossible, but then again this is what happens when comic books meet Hollywood) and sent it into space with the nuclear weapons Superman had gathered from all over the world. When tossed into the sun, the DNA and the nuclear material produced a sun-powered Superman-sort-of clone who then battled with the Man of Steel. Who won that match? It's fairly obvious—there were six Superman movies.

The idea of cloning and genetic engineering has been a favorite plot for decades. Unfortunately, science fiction has a way of becoming science fact, and when that happens it is difficult to redefine public perceptions and the connotations of the terms involved.

Cloning is simply making an identical genetic copy of an organism—be it a frog (done in the 1970s), a sheep (1997) or even a human being (2001?).

Scientists working on cloning animals will tell you that they had hundreds of failed embryos (embryos that never came to term, or horribly deformed clones that were killed after birth) before achieving success. Dr. Ian Wilmut and his team had 277 failed sheep embryos before Dolly came along. Scientists who've worked with mice, pigs and cows have had similar rates of failure and success as well.

Human clone this year?

Earlier this week, Doctors Severino Antinori and Panos Zavos announced their plans to produce the first human clone by the end of 2001. Antinori, the head of Rome's International Associated Research Institute and a fertility specialist, is best remembered for helping a 62-year woman give birth to a child in 1994. Zavos is a former professor turned head of a corporation that markets infertility treatments.

As early as January, the two doctors had already declared their intention to develop human cloning techniques to help infertile couples.

They are not alone.

Brigitte Boisselier, who has a doctorate in physical and biomolecular chemistry and is the scientific director for Clonaid, a company that plans to develop human clones, also stands fast on her belief that human cloning is viable, despite heavy criticism from scientific colleagues since the announcement was first made.

In an interview with BBC, Boisselier admitted that Clonaid has laboratories in Europe and America, though one wonders if the latter is still operational since the United States passed a law declaring a total ban on all human cloning.

The Clonaid website (www.clonaid.com) offers a variety of cloning services and the company's scientific integrity itself comes under fire since Clonaid is owned by Rael (www.rael.org), a religious organization (and the name of its leader) that claims that human life was created by extraterrestrials. Boisselier herself is listed as a Raelian bishop.

Working in peace

Antinori has said that they will work in international waters if no country will allow them to carry out their work in peace. He may have to carry out that promise if the 200 couples from around the world he has waiting for their "children" are to be satisfied. (Boisselier's daughter is said to be one of the 200 women to be implanted with the embryos).

In human cloning, a single cell, be it skin or otherwise, is combined with an egg from which the genes have been removed. Although cloning is not a new technique, experiments on human cloning are still fairly new.

In 1999, an Australian company implanted a cell with human DNA into a pig, but the embryo was destroyed after 32 days. The Australian government denied that it was a human clone because it was a hybrid product of two species. The report about the experiments only came out in March.

For infertile couples

Proponents of human cloning say it is the solution for couples who are infertile to have biological children of their own.

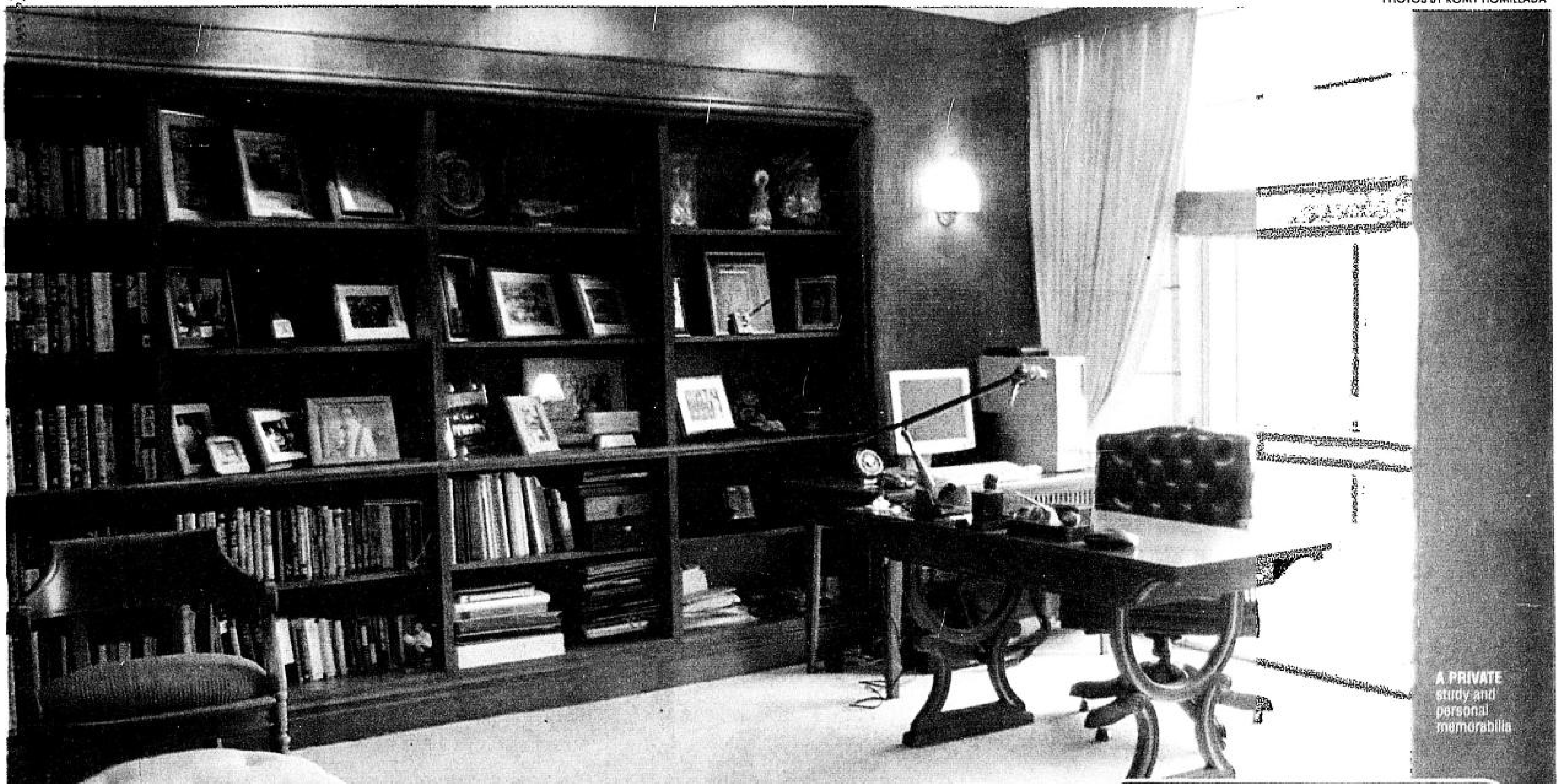
Critics however argue that the technology needed for human cloning is still years, if not decades, away, and they call Antinori's plan "irresponsible, immoral and unethical."

Since cloning only uses one parent's DNA, any "offspring" will not contribute to the genetic diversity of the human race. Would-be parents who look at cloning as a chance to have a natural child face the possibility of suffering a miscarriage. They may also demand a healthy offspring, not one who is deformed or stillborn, and may well have the child killed at birth if he is unacceptable.

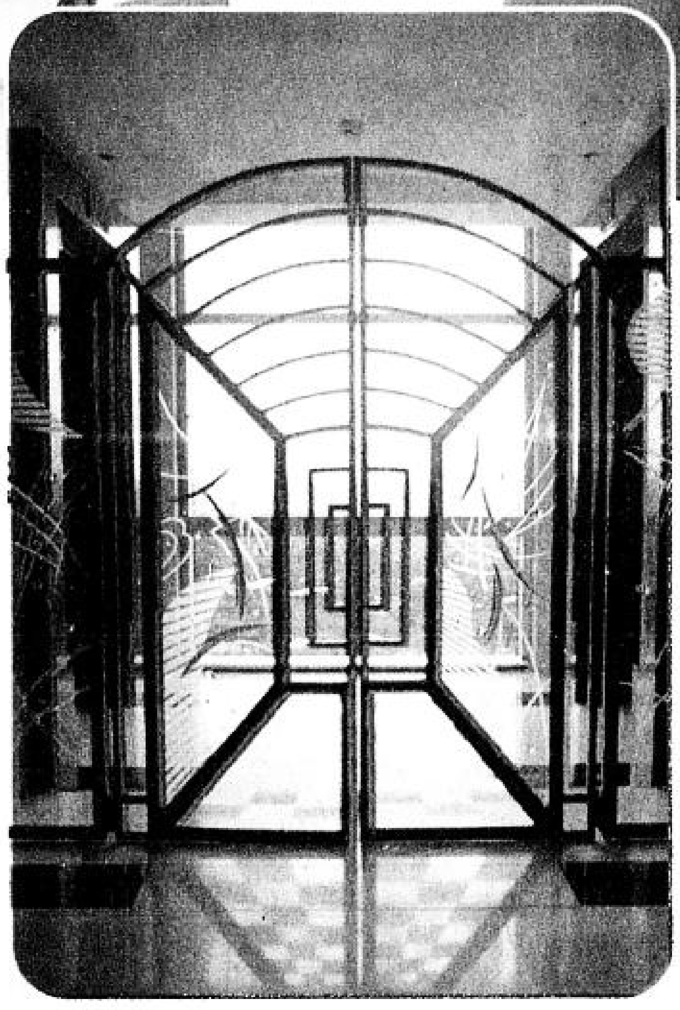
Wilmut has doubts about the scheme, remembering his own struggles to produce a healthy, living sheep clone. He says society has a right to dictate how far this technology should be carried out and wonders if and when a halt will be called.

(To be concluded next week.)

CONCHITINA SEVILLA-BERNARDO, Editor
all about élan
ANNIE CARMONA, Marketing Consultant
HOWARD BORJA, Art Director
[éla] *flair, distinction, class*
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



A PRIVATE study and personal memorabilia



AN IMPY Pilapil glass sculpture framed in wrought iron makes a dramatic entrance for a foyer that joins the two units. The view of the skyline is highlighted through the glass.

Like No Other

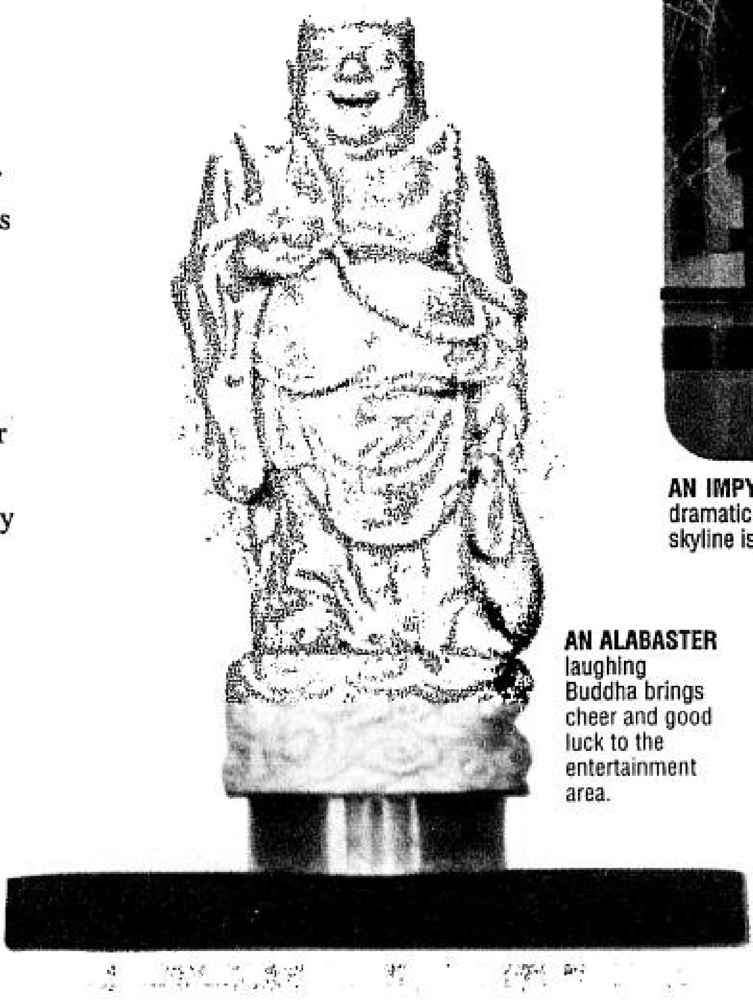
A GRACEFUL Alabaster chandelier over the main sitting area. Dropped ceiling with indirect lighting gives the entire area a welcoming, warm and friendly charm.

IT IS sheer pleasure to walk through the three beautiful apartments at the Pacific Plaza Towers in Bonifacio Global City. A high powered executive and two women have opted to make their homes an expression of their personalities They have graciously opened their doors to Élan.

The gentleman that we chose to feature asked us to discreetly leave out his name. His unit (units) comprises a whole floor or what is termed a core. This is one floor with two adjacent apartments, separated by an elegant and private lift lobby. **Recio Casas'** interior designer, **Mae Santos** picked a glass-sculptured door by **Impy Pilapil**, wrapped in wrought iron, to integrate both units as if it had a private foyer. One apartment has been converted into an entertainment area while the other one into his private quarters. Since he heads several conglomerates, his lifestyle dictates frequent meetings and high-powered entertaining.

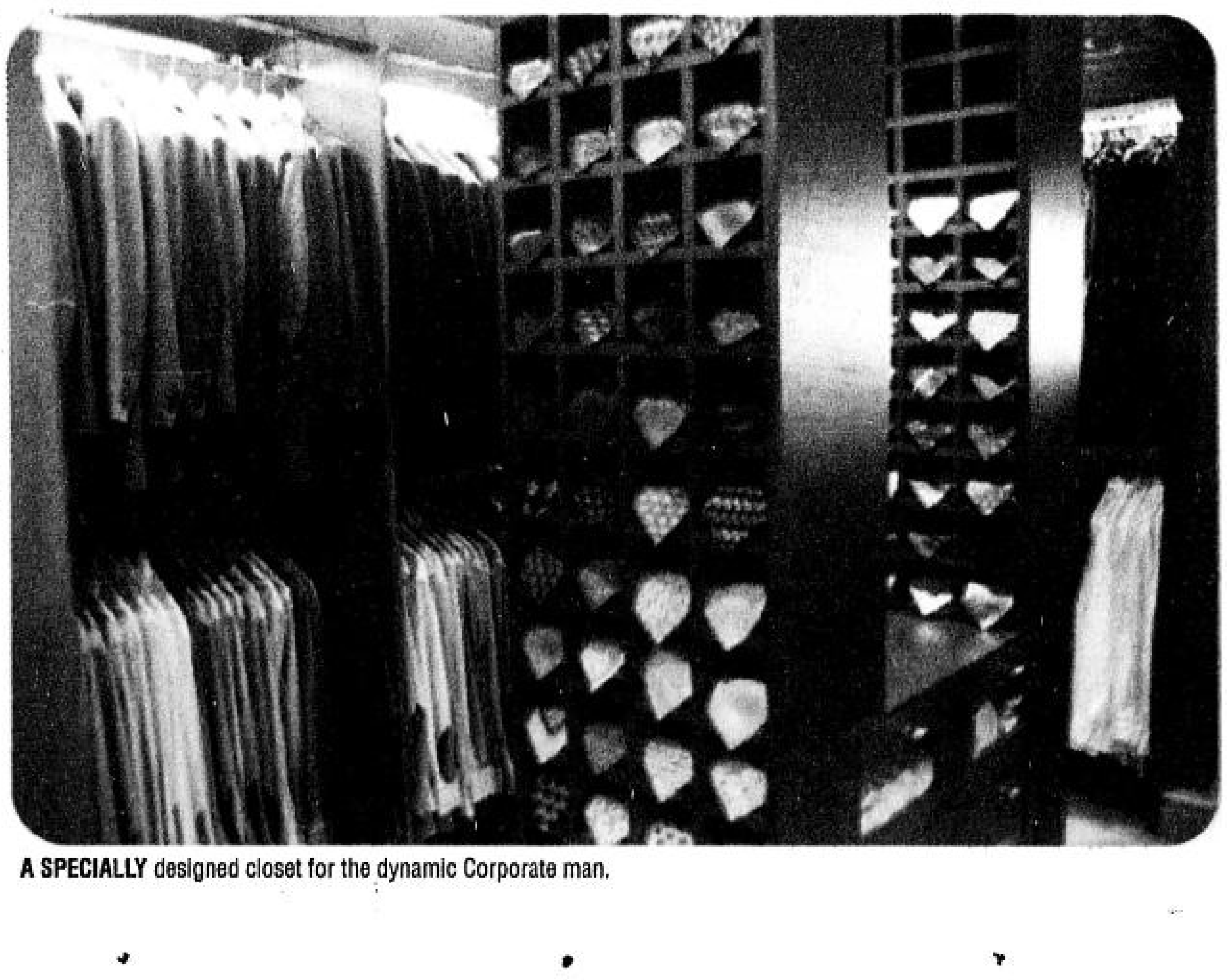
The result as you will see in these photos is a dwelling like no other. It is all of 600 square meters of covered area, furnished in a style that best reflects both sides of the owner. On one side, a fabulous apartment with its own home theater, three sitting rooms, a magnificent dining room, and a well stacked, luxurious bar, so much like his public image. On the other side, a quiet, almost laid back living area, is reflective of the other side of him. A private dining room, a personalized closet made to his specifications, his own study and special desk, in a library with pictures of family, trophies, and caricatures. The other side of him is private, quiet and uncluttered.

Two units, one apartment—unique, spectacular and singular. The result is simply breathtaking!



AN ALABASTER laughing Buddha brings cheer and good luck to the entertainment area.

THE ULTIMATE—a home theater.



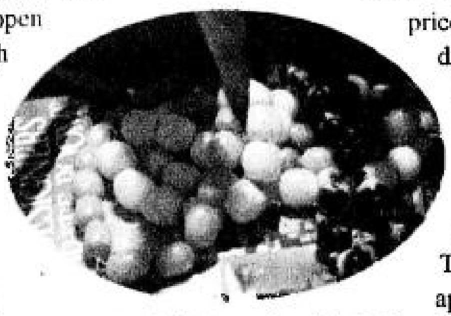
A SPECIALLY designed closet for the dynamic Corporate man.

A FORMAL dining room with Baccarat chandelier and Cobalt blue Murano Vases.

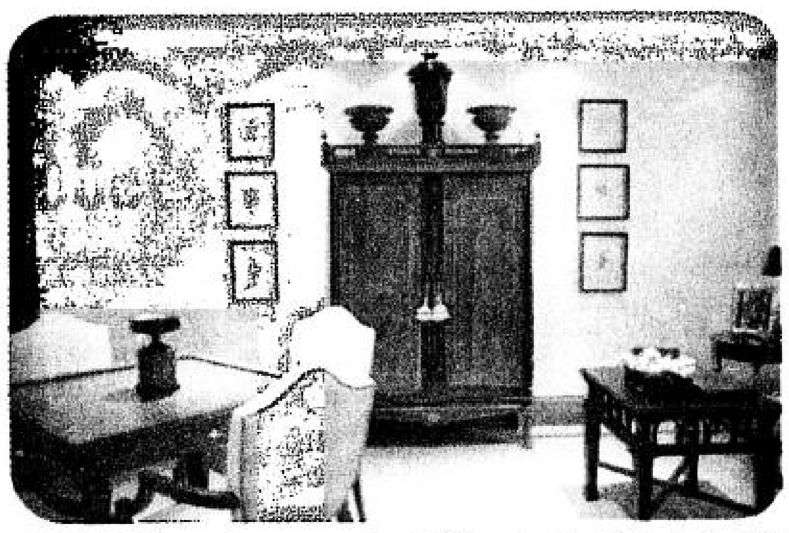
Carolyn Masibay...

Many treasures accumulated in time are integrated into an apartment that is beautifully elegant and in excellent taste

INSTINCTIVELY knew that **Conrad Onglao** would be the decorator that could best translate the person that she is. It was no mean feat to open stored boxes and sort through her many treasures, accumulated through time, and integrate them into an apartment unit that is beautifully elegant and in excellent taste. **Conrad Onglao** gathered **Carol's** outstanding collection of tortoise shell and ivory. From there he chose an unusual "citron" yellow motif. He painted the walls of the living room, and dining room in hues of yellow replicated in the living area where luxurious pillows in satin and brocade are casually strewn in large, comfortable sofas in the same yellow color. The tortoise shells are found all over the apartment in calculated corners that exude luxury and warmth. The den has bright walls and are decorated in Romanesque deco. Here, **Conrad** gathered a priceless collection of ivory and displayed them in a corner. As always, **Conrad's** lighting is flawless. Table lamps placed to soften angles, let out a gentle glow to set a mood and to lull the senses. Truly an outstanding apartment!


A LUXURIOUS cluster of varied Amber beads is casually placed over coffee table books.

A VIEW of the living room separated by period furniture and exotic bromeliads.


ROMANESQUE urns and vases over a Louis XV French cabinet is the focal point of the study room.

A CLUSTER of fresh lemons, to accentuate the "citron" yellow of the walls and upholstery. It also fills the room with a wonderful whiff of citrus.

AN INTERPRETATION of Carol by Alan Cosio hangs over Tortoise Shell accent pieces.

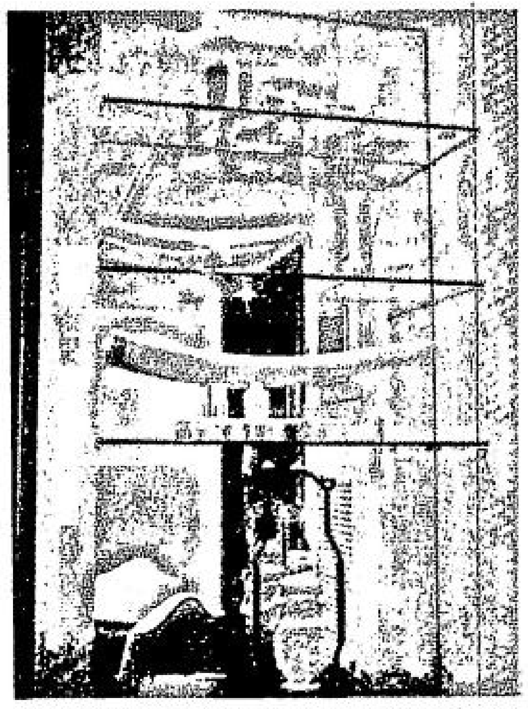

A TREASURE of finely carved Ivory collected through the years. Cherished because they are now so very rare.

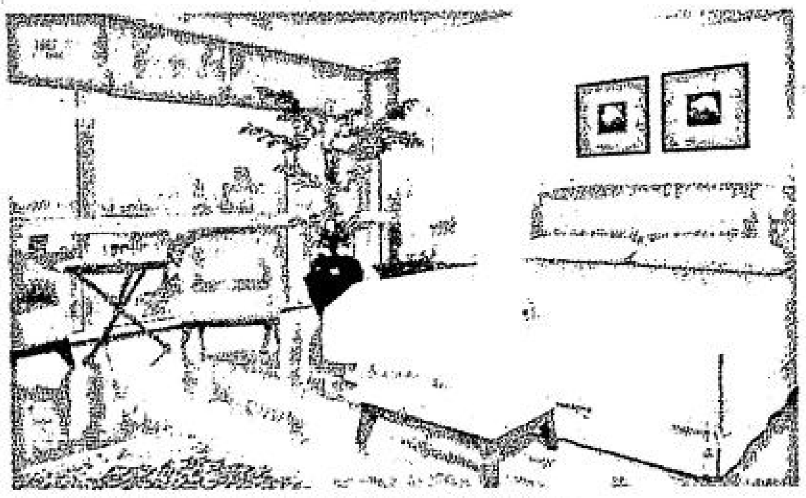
PHOTO BY JOHN CHUA

THE PACIFIC Plaza lobby is modern and starkly dramatic. An Impy Pilapil sculpture is prominent against the beautifully landscaped area.

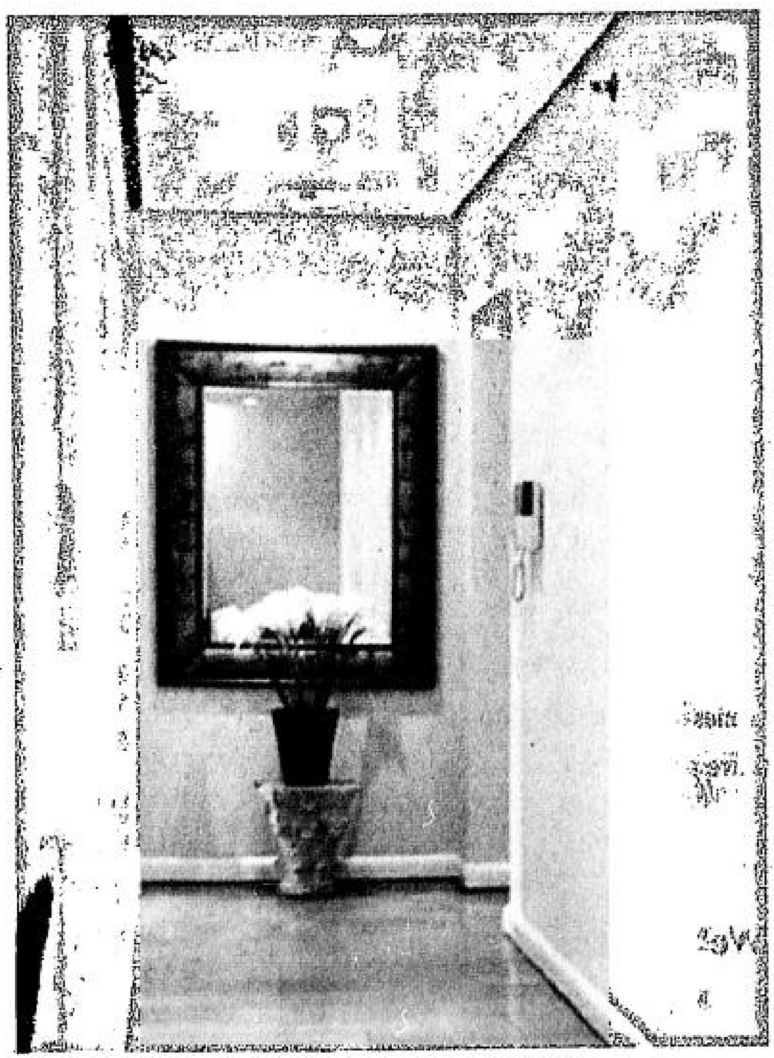
Marion Coscolluela...

IS a lady. A perfect lady. She is gentle, soft and gracious. Many have commented that just being in her presence makes one feel peaceful and so at ease. It is no wonder that the apartment decorated by her gives you an almost Zen-like tranquility that is so **Marion**. Her colors are in the tones of beige, white and ecru. Her walls are clear, devoid of clutter; her approach is very minimalist. The result is a spacious, free flowing apartment that allows the green and lush outdoors of the much-coveted view that the Pacific Plaza Towers has heralded, to blend into the unit. She makes abundant use of delicate, yet rich fabrics for her upholstery and bed covers. Her appointments are well thought out and well placed. The resulting apartment is one that makes you want to stay on and on.

MARION'S living room brings in the lush and verdant landscaped area of the Pacific Plaza Towers.


SERENE and restful is the master bedroom in muted colors.

THE MAGNIFICENT 50-meter pool, heated in the evenings, dominates the lush tropical gardens.


THE HALLWAY is dramatized by a flower arrangement of lilies.

DINING chairs of woven leather and a table setting and dining room that is pure *Orientalla*.

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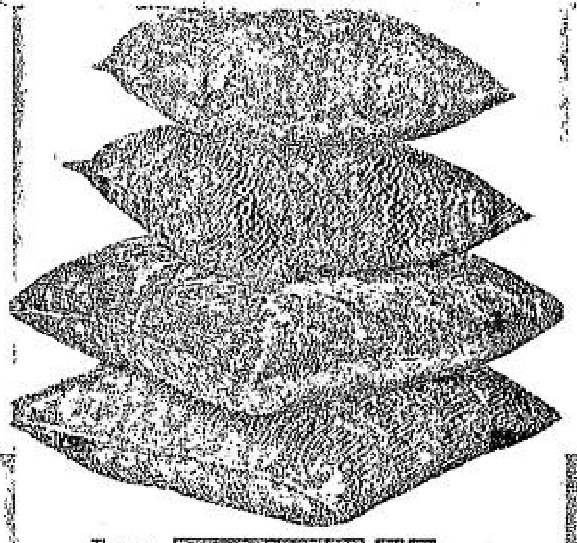

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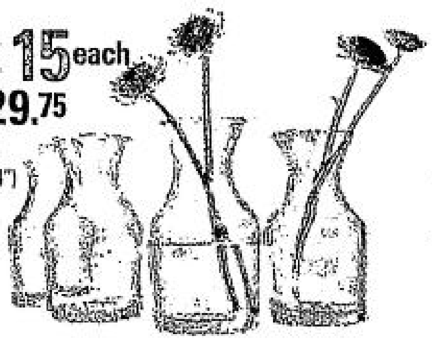

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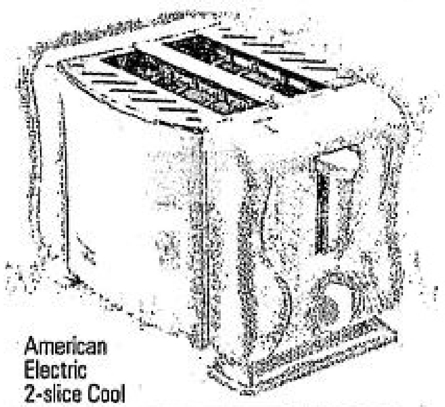

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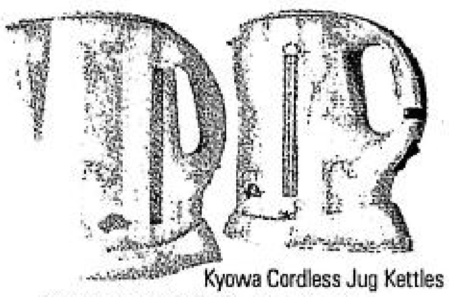

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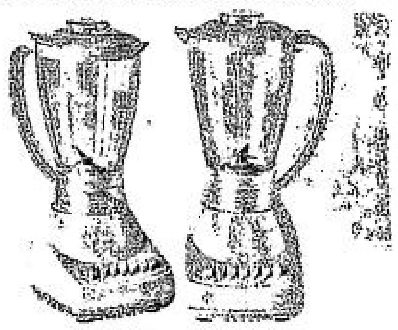

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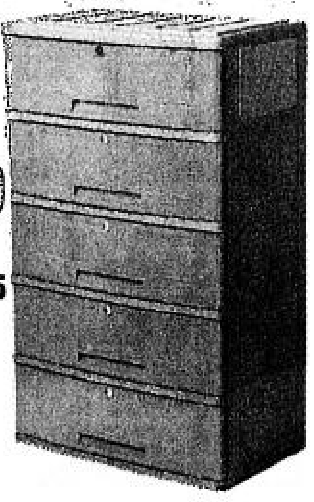

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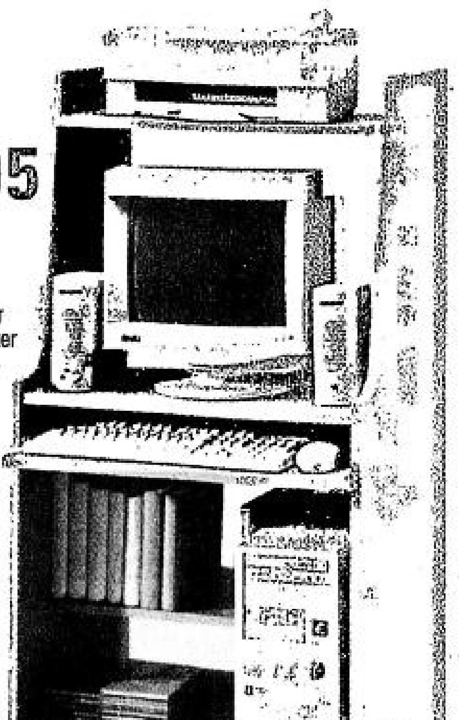

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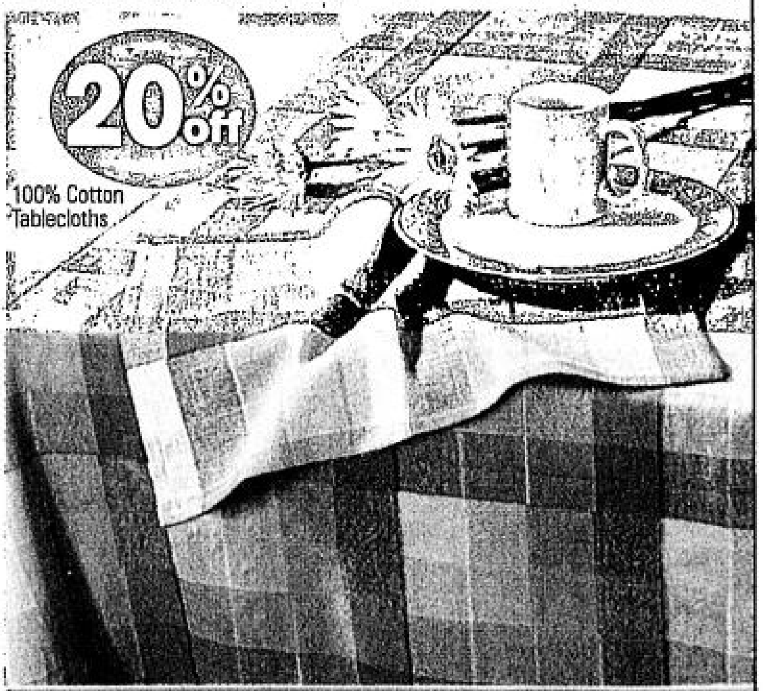

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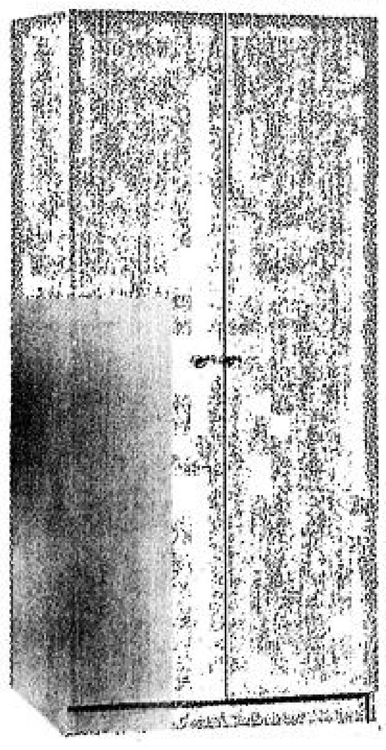

SALE 2,595
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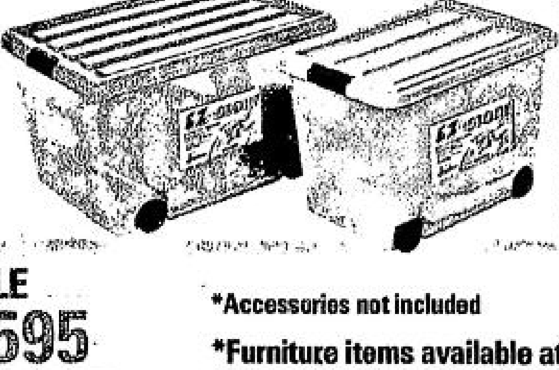
James-1 Wardrobe Cabinet*



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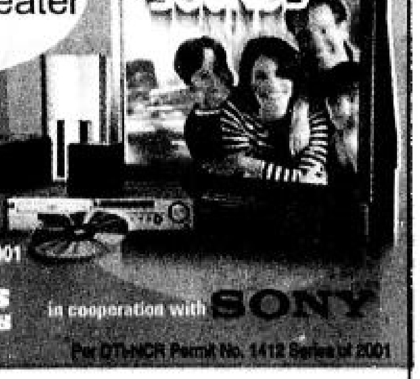

A single or accumulated purchase worth P300 at SM Department Store, or P1,000 at SM Appliance Center entitles shopper to one(1) raffle coupon.
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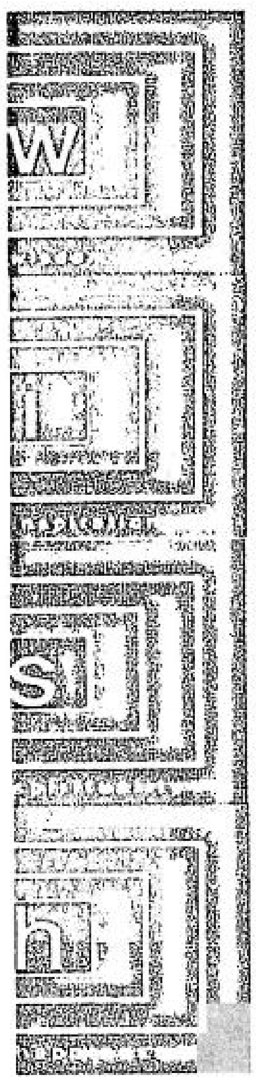


Fill Your Home With Positive Energy

FRAGRANCES create a mood in your home. Let positive energy fill your private spaces with *Soular Therapy's* Wish Candles.

Available exclusively at Rustan's Essenses, Wish Candles were developed to bring wishing abundance into the lives of those seeking to create a positive state of being. Wish Candles are all about creating, believing and making wishes come true. The idea is to illuminate a wish candle in your home and surround yourself with its beautiful fragrance and positive energy.

At one's most relaxed state, Wish Candles create a positive mood that allows one to transcend the mind and visualize the attainment of one's goals. Whether seeking Wisdom, Inspiration, Spirituality or Happiness, positive states that spell out the objective of Wish Candles, one must believe that anything is possible. Blow out the candle and make a wish.

Wish Candles are products of *Soular Therapy*. Based in San Antonio, Texas, *Soular Therapy* is one of the new and exciting companies that markets products to enhance well-being. Their primary goal has been to provide unique products that impact on the lives of individuals. A favorite of television diva, Oprah Winfrey, *Soular Therapy* is slowly making a name beyond the United States and is a constant favorite of fashion magazines today.

how to make a wish:

1. illuminate your wish candle
2. clear your mind
3. imagine your desire
4. believe that anything is possible
5. take a deep breath and close your eyes
6. blow out your candle and make a wish
7. repeat daily

wish for happiness
inspiration
spirituality
wish for wisdom
wish for inspiration

CANDLES to burn for inspiration and happiness

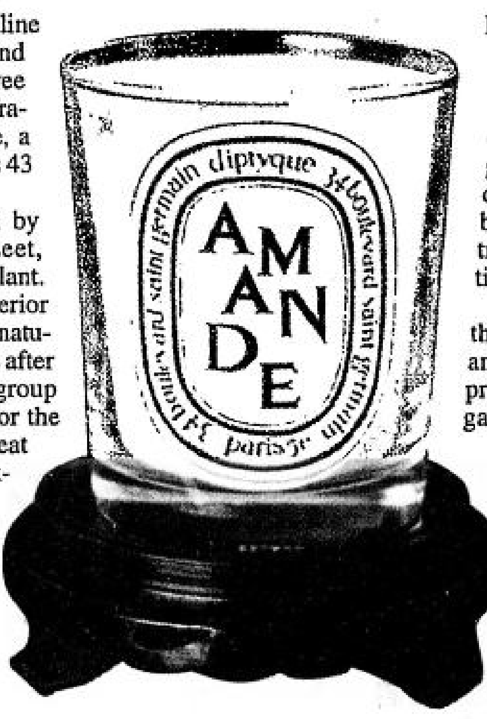
L'EAU
diptyque
L'EAU
diptyque
L'EAU
diptyque

DIPTYQUE Fills The Home With Pleasant Memories

FILL your home with the masculine scent of broom, leather, firewood and waxed wood, or the aroma of fig tree and orange tree. These unique fragrances come only from Diptyque, a French perfumer best known for its 43 different scented candles.

Diptyque was founded in 1961 by three friends, Desmod Knox-Leet, Christiane Gaurot and Yves Couelant. All three had an artistic and interior decoration backgrounds and have a natural affinity for the home. Two years after they formed the company, the group launched line of scented candles for the home. The candles were such great success that today, Diptyque has expanded its home fragrances to include scented natural sprays and burning essences.

Despite their success and prestigious clientele, which include **Liz Hurley, Michael Kors, Elton John, Catherine Deneuve** and **Donatella Versace,** Diptyque maintains only nine employees, all of whome work only with the highest standards. Diptyque is in a continuous quest for superior fragrances that give their clients' homes unique and distinct characteristics. Their team boasts of total disregard for fleeting trends and fashion, and taps their creativity to produce unique fragrances.



An industry magazine describes their scents as evocative and distinct, and brings with them memories that promote a sense of well-being. Bulgarian roses, for example, conjure memories of quiet walks among falling leaves. Pomander, a mix of cinnamon and orange, brings one memories of the holiday season and Latauoi captures the scent of freshly mown hay.

Diptyque candles and fragrances are available only at Rustan's.

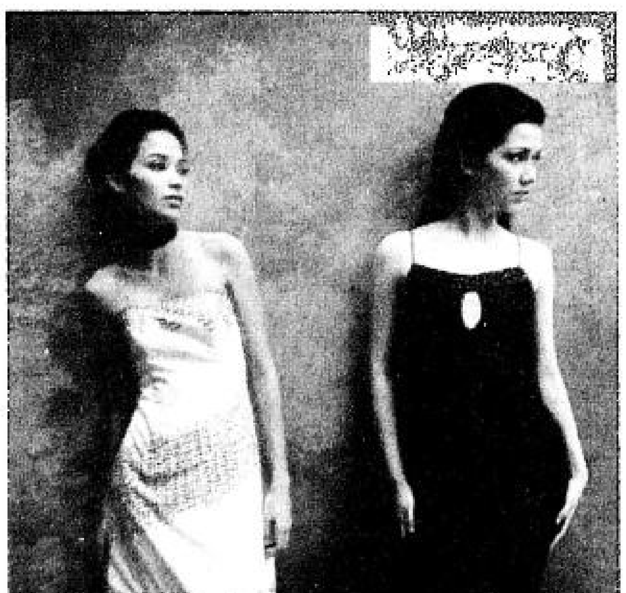
KATRINA Tantoco and Hindy Tantoco

LULI Arroyo and Petite Brodette-Olbes

RAJO Laurel and Tessa Valdes

JOEL Tantoco and Donnie Tantoco

LUNA *By Pia Regala-Hebron*



THE LUNA Collection

SUYEN Chi, Alta Tan, Wanda Louwallien and friend.

RUSTANS presents the Luna collection by **Pia-Regala-Hebron**, which starts with the fashion characteristics of a modern young woman.

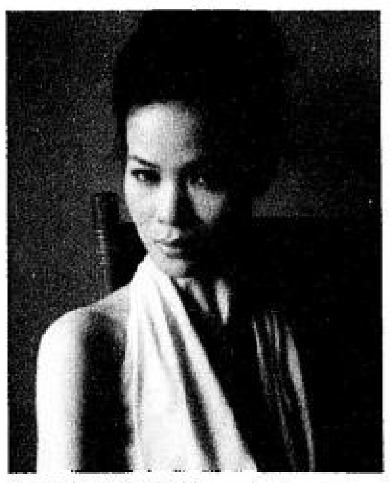
She adheres to the classics but has a modern edge. She has an eye trained by frequent encounters with good taste, a love for comfort and honesty. She is sexy and oftentimes, daring. She is not preoccupied with being too trendy but dresses to emphasize her femininity and personality. She has an aversion to complicated styles and veers towards easy silhouettes. She appreciates the past but has an eye for the future.

With these and her sensibilities in mind, Luna proposes a way of sophistication that finds its source in the glamorous 30s, without giving in to the complacency of that era. Other sources of inspiration are the Hellenic styles of the costumes worn by legendary dancers **Anna Pavlova** and **Isadora Duncan**.

The keynote of the collection features shades of green—muted, chalky shades of avocado and emerald—as well as violets and deep black, ivory and stark white. It is a rejection towards marked contrasts but allows for the mixing of close shades, hues and palettes.

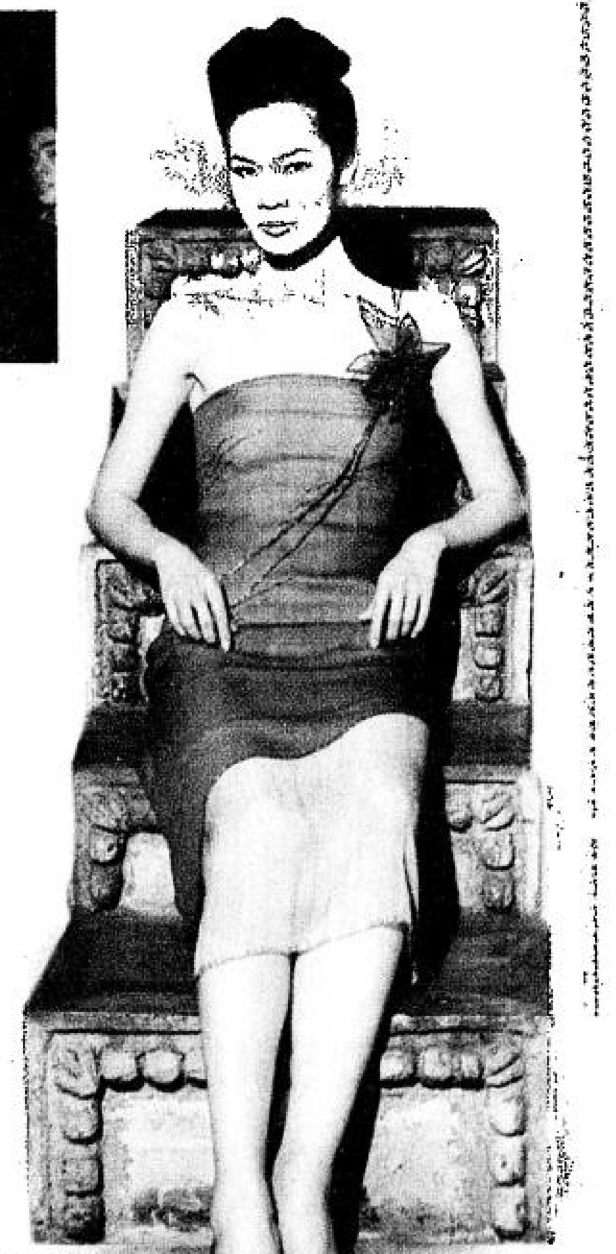
The collection's turn on the fabrics are twofold—on one hand are soft, light and fluid lines while on the other are rich and bold numbers. The materials used range from silk dupion, chiffon, georgette as well as taffeta and velvet. All these lend volume to the cut and shape of the clothes. The designer focuses on asymmetrical hems and necklines, drapery, gathering, twisting and sweeping the fabric against the body. She also likes to use bias cuts for fluid and softer forms. For evening wear, the fabrics and beadwork are rich and the long dresses emphasize the waist and shoulders.

Pia Regala-Hebron studied at the Instituto per L'Arte e il Restauro in Florence, Italy, where she was exposed to illustrating, history of costumes, pattern making and textile design. Her career as a fashion designer started with Rustan's in 1993 for the weekend line Caravan. In 1997, she took over the helm of Luna in which she was designer and merchandise manager. Under her direction, Luna became one of the store's best-selling labels and a name synonymous with simple, elegant and stylish dresses. She is also one of the designers for another Rustans' brand Jill. This is **Pia's** first gala show, where she is being launched as the designer for Luna and one of Rustans' in-house designers.



HALTER-NECKED blouse by Luna

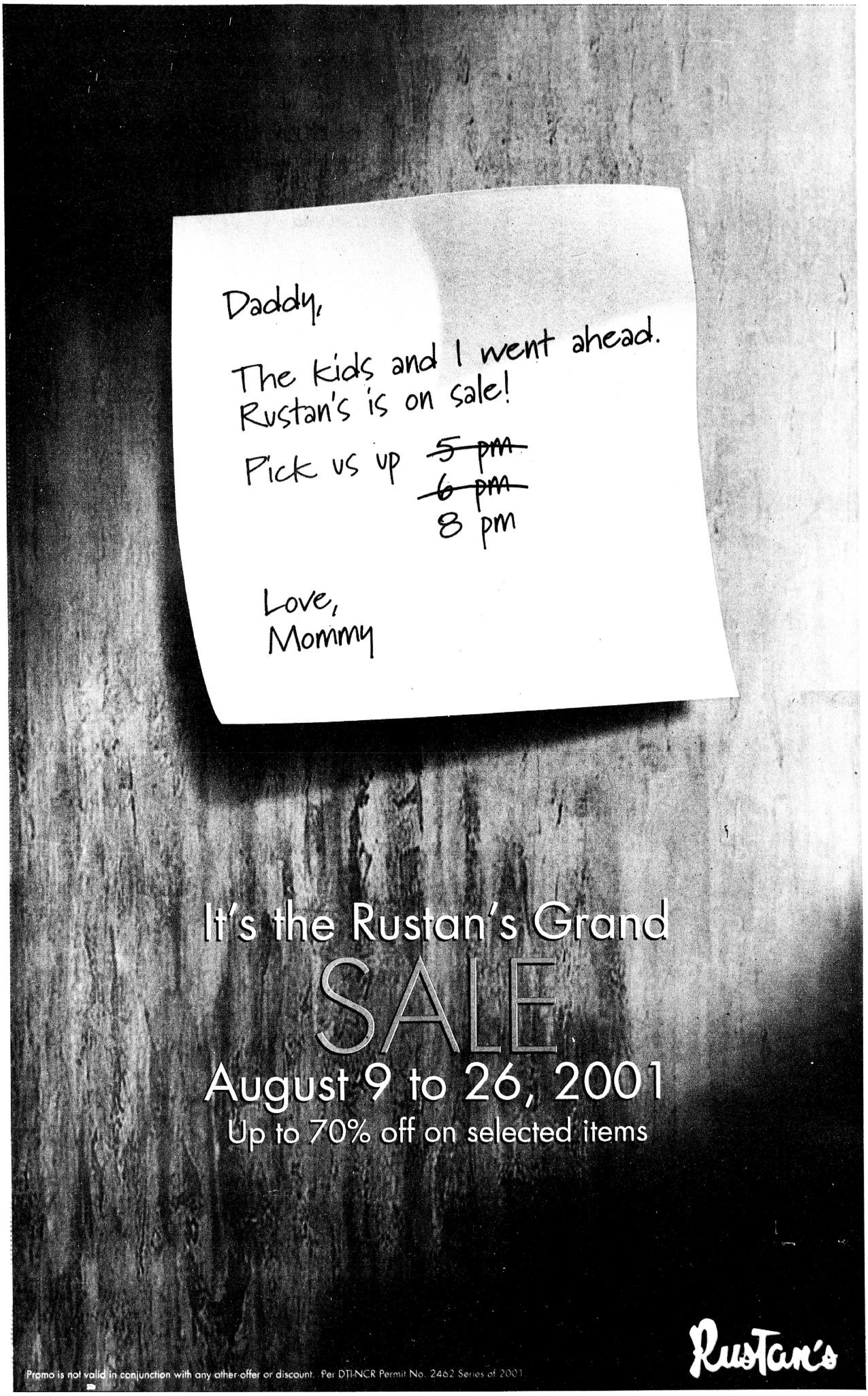
RICO Tantoco and Monty Roxas



DESIGNER chic by Luna

PHOTOS BY DENISE WELDON

PIA Regala-Hebron



Daddy,

The kids and I went ahead.
Rustan's is on sale!

Pick us up ~~5 pm~~
~~6 pm~~
8 pm

Love,
Mommy

It's the Rustan's Grand

SALE

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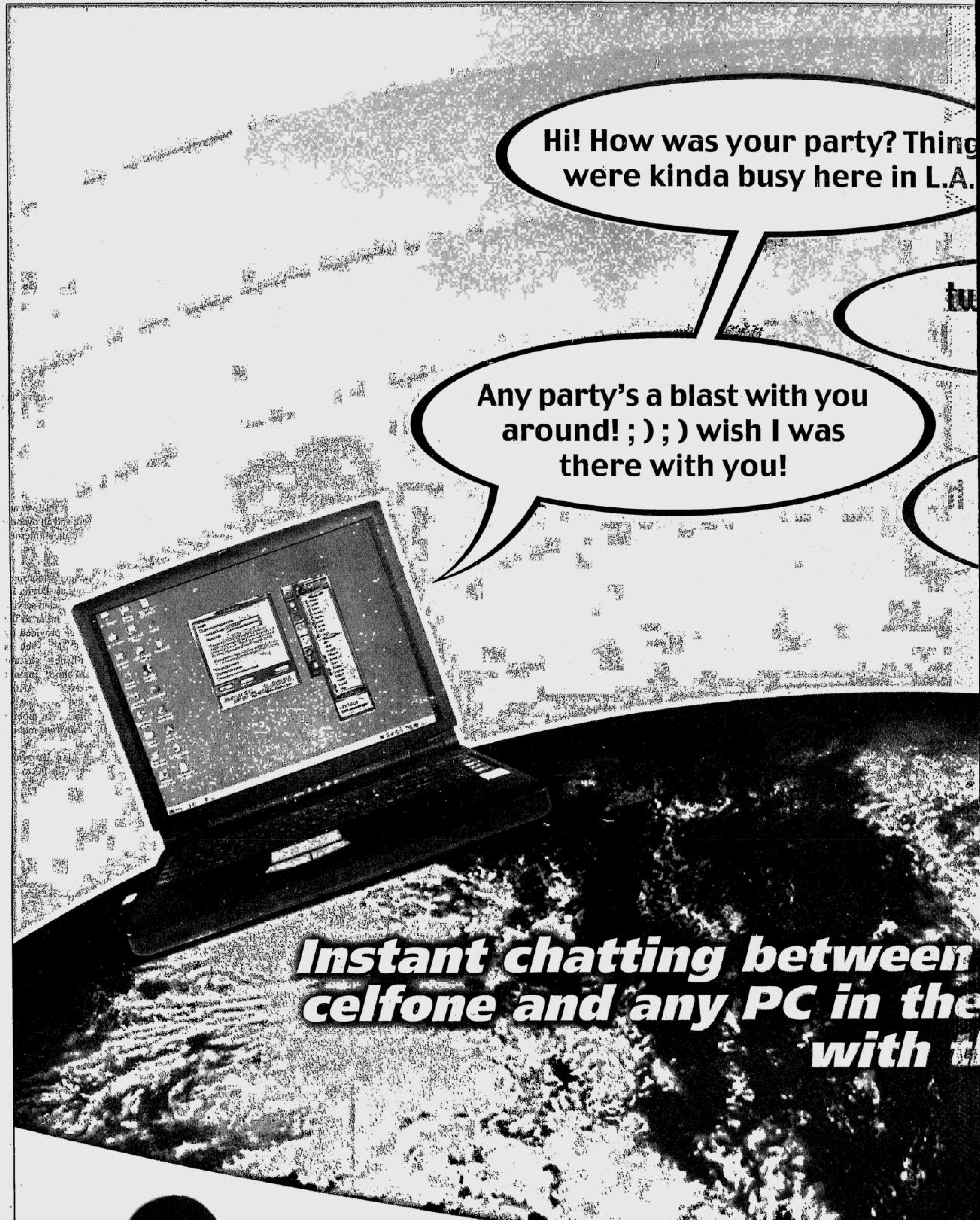
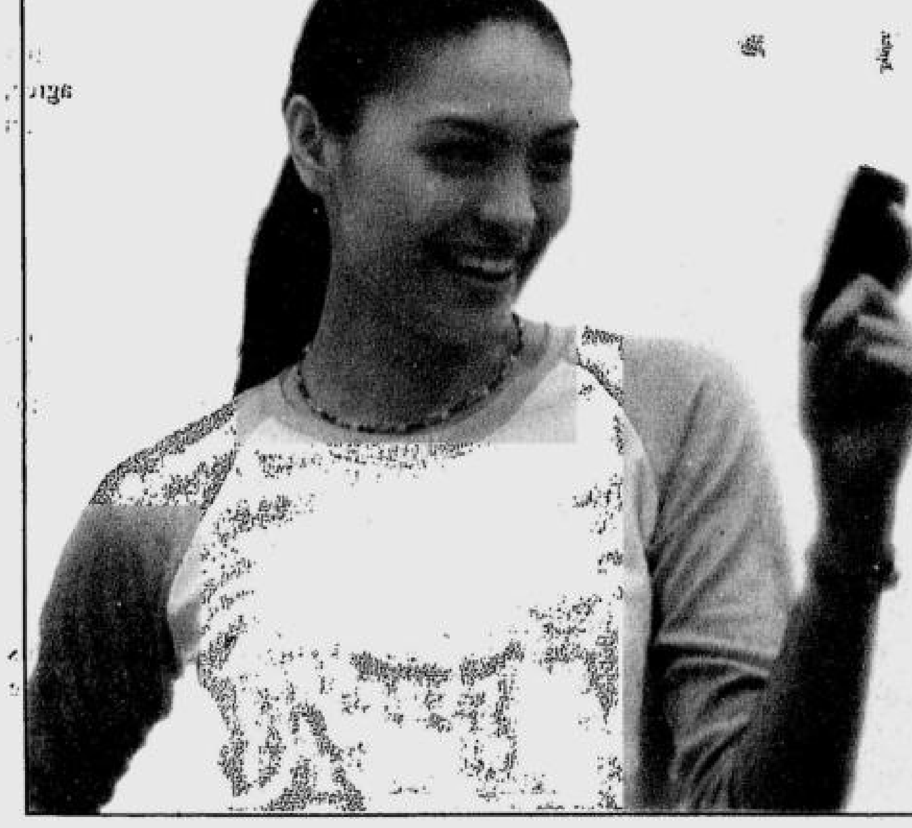
Rustan's

Promo is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2462 Series of 2001


Hi! How was your party? Thing
were kinda busy here in L.A.
tw
Any party's a blast with you
around! ;) ;) wish I was
there with you!
hi
Instant chatting between
celfone and any PC in the
with



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SMART i-chat—text messaging, all ways, always.
Get connected with SMART i-chat now!

Register with your SMART celfone now by typing ICHAT and sending to 277. To register thru PC, visit **www.chikka.com** for free downloads.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

SMART i-chat 'Anytime, anywhere' instant messaging

SMART GSM celfone subscribers can now easily send messages back and forth to PC-based instant messaging (IM) service users anytime, anywhere in the world using a new Philippine-made IM service called "Chikka".

Offered by SMART Communications, Inc., in cooperation with Chikka, the new service is a creative combination of two of today's most popular communications technologies—instant messaging which runs on the Internet and text messaging of GSM cellular phones.

"This new and innovative service enables SMART GSM celfone users here in the Philippines to connect real-time with their friends, relatives and associates here and all over the world through their Internet-linked PCs," said Anastacio Martirez, head of SMART's Personal Communications and Mobile Services Division.

The SMART i-chat service with Chikka is similar to the freeware service provided by traditional PC IMs such as America OnLine's Instant Messenger, Yahoo! Instant Messenger and ICQ. SMART i-chat allows real-time messaging not only from PC to mobile phones but also from mobile phones to PCs.

"It can also forward messages sent to the PC to the mobile phone, " said Dennis Mendiola, CEO of Chikka Holdings Ltd, the content provider for Chikka.

"With this service, mobile phone users will have the brand new experience of receiving messages zipping through the Internet from any PC in the world. They then text back as they ordinarily would," he added.

To avail of this service, the subscriber can easily register through his celfone. He only sends the word ICHAT to 277 and a menu of options (including option 1 for the registration) will be sent back to him. Then, he only has to reply to the series of instructions via text. For the PC user, he can visit **www.chikka.com** and download the free Chikka application. Then, he only has to follow the succeeding instructions for the installation and registration. After registering, he can now create a list of friends, family and business associates he wishes to communicate with. Like other instant messaging services, the list of "buddies" will be asked via text or e-mail if they wish to join the user's circle of contacts. If they agree, then they can receive and send messages to the user real-time.

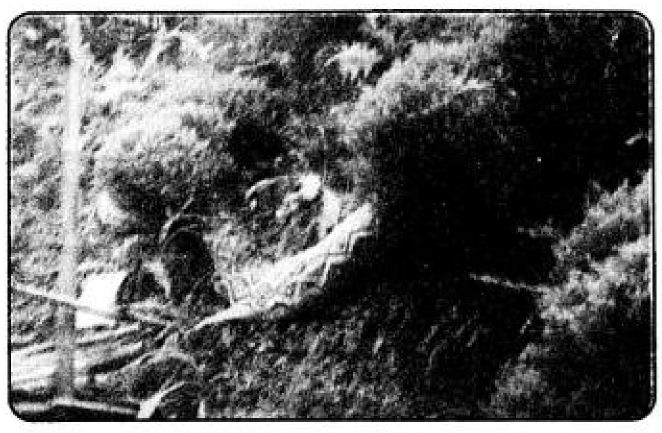
SMART i-chat then uses this list to find the user's friends, and notifies him once they have logged on to the Net or used their celfones. He can then send messages and "chat" in real time.

"This is particularly useful to those people who are on the go and need constant communication with people abroad—be it in the US, Europe or the Middle East," said Martirez.

SMART i-chat service fits the current Philippine setting where Filipinos have few computers but lots of text-capable cellular phones.

THE SINGLE room structure serves as the cooking, eating and sleeping area, depending on the need. At night, the ladder that leads to the single door is raised for protection. Take note of the traditionally woven mats and blankets.

NOTE that each tribe has a different variation in building their homes when it comes to roof shape, interiors and construction.



FOR the year of the snake, Jordan Mang-osan's installation art has a serpent running along the sides of a hill beside one of the huts.

A Haven For Artists And Tourists

BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON
PHOTOS BY BONG CAYABYAB

LIKE its famous man-made rice terraces, the Ifugao house or "bale," although deceptively simple,. is constructed without using nail or hardware. The single room structure on shoulder high hardwood stilts, and is usually windowless. It is the continuity of the floor, walls and ceiling does not make one feel claustrophobic. The runo stick weaving on the walls and roof allows light to filter in and smoke from indoor cooking to filter out.

The interior of an Ifugao house is made of heavy hand hewn lumber and rattan that lasts forever. Only the pyramidal roof, designed to let the frequent heavy rains run off efficiently, is made of cogon that practically covers the main structure. This is changed every now and then as the need arises.

A rare treat for tourists with very little time to go into the Cordillera interior, is a visit to Tam-awan Village along Pinsao Road in Baguio City. The Chanum Foundation, founded in 1996 by internationally acclaimed artist **Bencab, Chit Asignacion, Nestor Mondok, Anne Camdas-Michael, Jackson Bryan III** and **Jordan Mang-osan**, brought in traditional builders in the relocation and re-assembly of centuries old houses from the remote mountain areas to recreate a typical Cordillera Village in a 5,000 square meter property belonging to the **Camdas** family.

Tam-wan is a known haven for artists who get together, work and exhibit their paintings in the resort's gallery, in Manila and abroad. On rare occasions when the group is complete, **Bencab**, his friends and protégés, allow 30-minute sessions for residents, tourists or lowlanders who wish to sit for pencil and charcoal sketches. Happy is the privileged one who comes home with six to eight, ready to frame sketches skillfully done from different angles by the Cordillera's best artists. Tam-awan Village manager **Cecile Habito** can be reached at tel. no. (074)446-2949 for more information.

With eight Ifugao houses (from Annaba, Bangaan, Bocos, Kinakin, Nagor, Obal, Batad and Dukligan) and one Kalinga hut, Tam-awan Village is considered a living museum, where the culture and arts of the Cordillera are preserved. It has become a venue for workshops and art exhibits to share with the guests the respect and pride in the cultural heritage of the Cordillera people.

THE CAFÉ is the center of activity in the village. Tam-awan manager Cecile Habito welcomes guests to village life.

NO village is without the "Dap-ay," a circular space paved with huge flat stones with a provision for a bonfire in the center. Around it are boulders where village men can sit and gather around the fire to exchange stories or settle disputes.

A VISITOR can sleep over in one of the houses like the Batad Hut with a curved gable, which projects from the side of the roof. For the convenience of city dwellers, an outhouse with modern facilities is located on the left side of the hut.

Touches Of The North In The Basa Home

BY FE R. DACUDAO
PHOTOS BY BEN YOUNG

ALONG Mangga Street in Matina, a peaceful neighborhood where old Davao families reside, lies a charming home owned by an equally charming couple, lawyer Danny Basa and wife Erlin Bonifacio-Basa.

Their haven exudes their love for many things rural and Filipino. Enhancing the simple architecture are pieces of antiquity and artistry. The vintage lampshade in the entry hall, the 1930s wooden armchairs in the living room—for example—and the many pieces of oil and watercolor expressions of Davao painters reflect their romance with Filipino arts and culture. A garden with assorted large foliage brings Nature's refreshing and healing effect into the interiors. It is fascinating to find a two-tier doghouse in this long, narrow indoor garden where their pets are nurtured with tender care.

Outdoors the visitor will certainly admire the unique landscaping. Weekend landscape hobbyist that she is, banker **Erlin Basa** has managed beautifully to create several interesting corners in her garden. Farm implements and other unusual accents, mostly from the Ilocos Region, highlight the different groupings of selected plants.

Upon entering the driveway, one will be greeted by a row of *"burnay"* jars sprawled near the entrance, and covered with jute tied on the neck with *abaca* ropes. One would marvel at a cart with solid wooden wheels serving as a buffet table in the gazebo, and the farm plow adorning a medley of bromeliads in the pathway. A *calesa* here, a *banca* there, what unusual focal pieces these are!

The main attraction is a huge tobacco crusher in its original, working condition, coming all the way from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, where **Erlin's** mother hails from, situated against the white exterior walls of the house. A formidable sight, it is as it stands in an unfamiliar setting among the refreshing greenery carefully chosen to complement its functional look. In addition, the owners' ingenuity finds expression in a fence wall with old water pipes erected side by side, declaring the colors of Benetton.

Oh, the gazebo, what a breathtaking sanctuary! Surrounded by foxtails, fishtails, *bougainvilleas*, huge *dapo* and *stagforn* ferns, it is a veritable rainforest. The translucent roof with a fan design allows the kind warmth of the sun to come in as the plants around permeate their refreshing presence. Savoring the Basas' special tender barbecue and native *kakanin* on a carefree afternoon with enjoyable company is the ultimate experience. Here one can lose and find oneself all at once in this idyllic ambience.

The five-car garage across the gazebo converts into a party place or into the exhibit venue of MISC.* Art Gallery. Last March, during the Y2001 "Araw ng Dabaw" festivities—the 80-piece collection of the gallery was exhibited here.

Not many in Davao know about this lovely spot among the old homes in Matina. Visiting it is truly a creative excursion, where you feast your eyes and nourish your spirit. Through the sharp, creative shots of award-winning photographer **Ben Young**, we share the loveliness, inside and out, of the Basa home.

A WOODEN calesa and clay "burnay" jars bring the provincial charm of Vigan to the Davao garden of Erlin Bonifacio-Basa.

THE WARM and tranquil receiving room accented by antique baskets, wooden furniture and jars.

A COZY European setting waits for elegant guests in the gazebo. In the background is an authentic sugar cane grinder taken from the Basa Farm in Calinan, Davao City.

A WOODEN cart with solid wooden wheels converted to a multi-tier buffet table. The table lamp is an old water pump.

AN AUTHENTIC tobacco presser, its wood in original working condition, dominates the landscape against the house.

Shiraz Wine Lounge and Bistro: It's an Experience and a Lifestyle!

STEP inside the new Shiraz Wine Lounge and Bistro and you get the feeling of being somewhere in uptown Manhattan or a wine bar by the harbor at Sydney.

The lounge was envisioned by a group of entrepreneurs who are wine enthusiasts, wanting to know more about wine but felt there was no venue where they could do so, apart from reading about it and surfing the internet. Shiraz was then born, and yes, it was conceptualized while enjoying a couple of bottles of Shiraz wine. Shiraz is the Australian name for the Syrah grape variety, a wine favored by the people behind Shiraz Wine Lounge and Bistro.

Created by architect **Gil Coscolluela**, who is also a co-owner and Director of Operations of Shiraz, this newest venue for wine lovers has become the place to be seen and the place to go to enjoy a good bottle of wine and relax with friends. According to **Coscolluela**, "I wanted to create a place that was different from all the rest. I got most of my ideas for the lounge from my travels. I really wanted a cosmopolitan setting that was not intimidating. First and foremost, it had to be a place wherein people could relax and unwind, which is really the most conducive environment for people to enjoy wine." **Coscolluela** further adds that he envisioned the place that creates an experience that captures all the senses, because in essence wine is really a beverage that appeals to all the senses.

According to **Tinee de Guzman**, CEO of Shiraz, "Our vision is to be the premier location at which connoisseurs as well as those who would like to learn more and appreciate wine can meet, exchange views and enjoy wine in a non- intimidating, relaxed and elegant setting."

Anton Gonzalez, chief financial officer of Shiraz mentions that "as a small quaint bistro and lounge this is a sound financial investment because after a couple of months when the general novelty of evening places fade away, Shiraz will remain efficient in that we maintain a clientele of regular customers. We want this to be an extension of our personal home living rooms and that is what we are aiming to achieve."

Marichelle Ligon, co-owner, states that "developing the menu, particularly the desserts was very important to us. We had to be able to pair the food with the wine and the desserts with ports and dessert wines," this was a task that was undertaken with kitchen consultant **Leah Sison** and dessert consultant, **Baba Ibazeta**. The bistro offers light meals for all day dining.

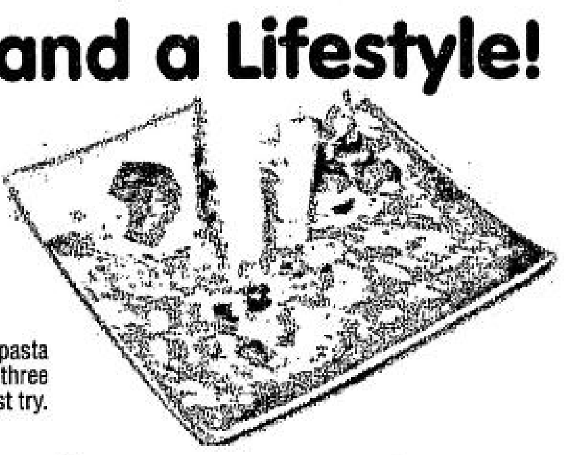
Joel Gironella, co-owner and contractor for Shiraz mentions that given the limited time he had to build the place, he drew his inspiration from the innovative concept behind Shiraz. **Peter Limjoco**, co-owner states that "I've always wanted a place that caters to a niche market and Shiraz is not trying to capture a mass base, it's very focused in terms of its concept and vision."

The wine selection was carefully chosen by noted wine connoisseur **Freddie Pio de Roda**, who is also the corporate secretary of The International Wine and Food Society. The lounge does not offer hundreds of varieties of wine, but rather it provides its customers with a good selection of both premium and table wines particularly those coming from Australia and California. Even their wine by the glass selections are reasonably priced wines chosen for the quality and not the cost. Located at the **Palisades Building** along Perea Street in Legaspi Village, Shiraz offers both lunch and dinner and is open throughout the afternoon to accommodate nearby offices for meetings or light snacks and desserts.

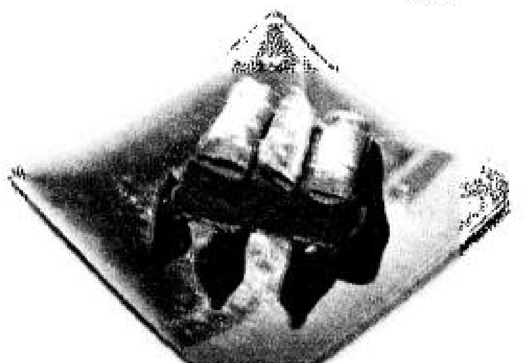
Have your own Shiraz experience, fine wine, good food, the perfect ambiance and fabulous people. For reservations call tel. no. 8920758.

WORLD-CLASS design by Architect Gil Coscolluela

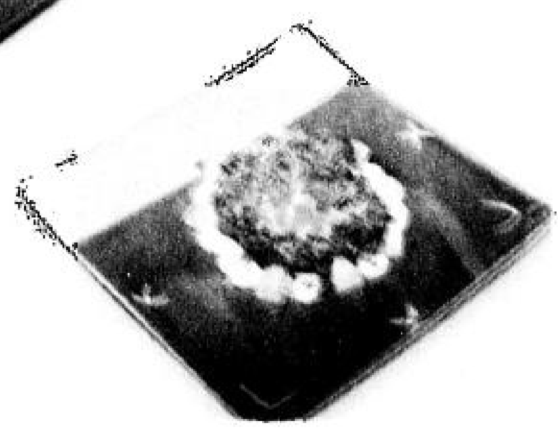
SOME of the dynamic people behind Shiraz: Tinee de Guzman, Anton Gonzalez, Marichelle Ligon and Gil Coscolluela.



THE SHIRAZ pasta sampler of three sauces is a must try.



THIS rich French decadence chocolate cake is perfect with a glass of port or simply a cup of coffee.



HOUSE specialties include a refreshing mango and shrimp salad.

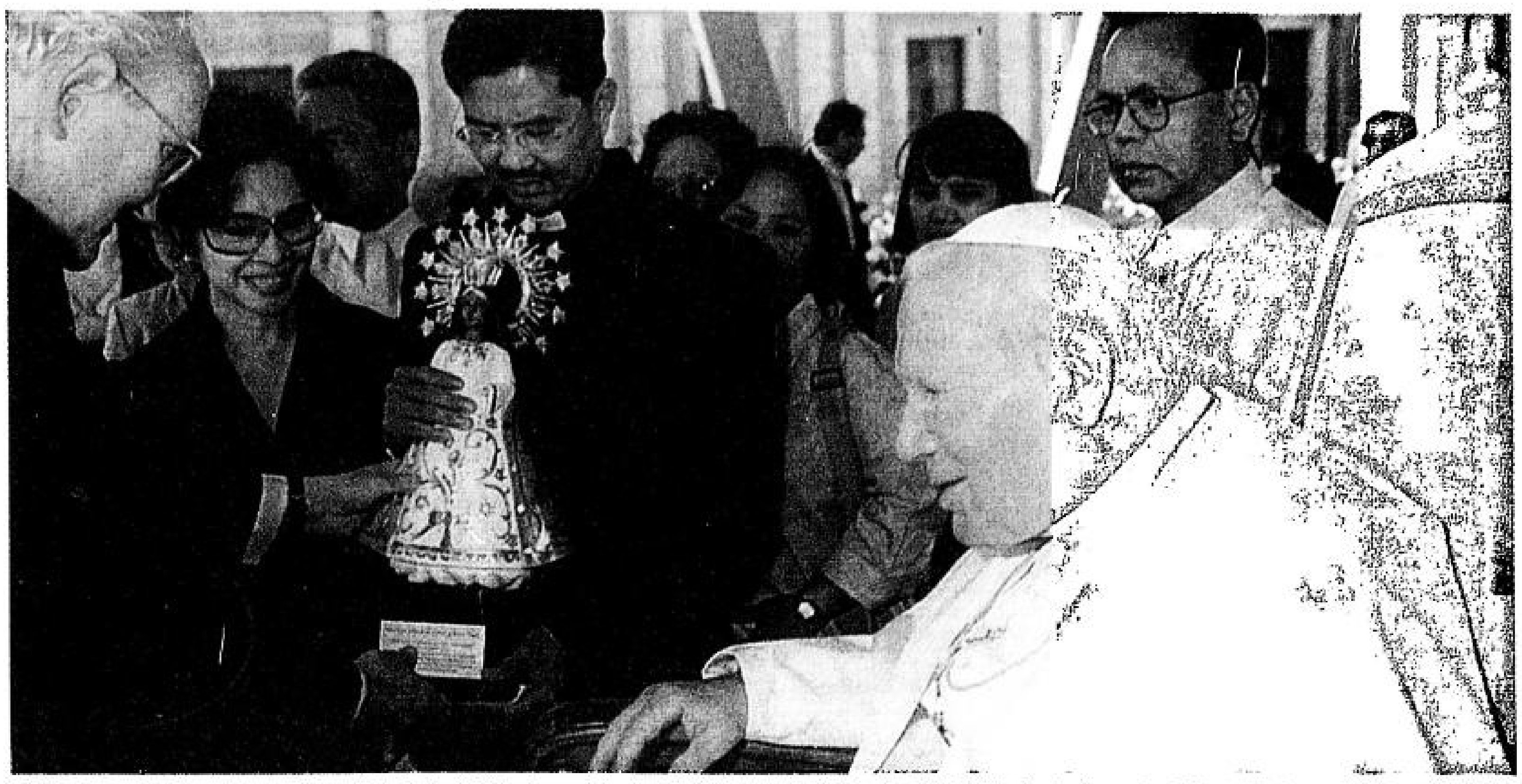
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

VATICAN Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano displays the framed commemorative stamp issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and the Holy See. Ambassador de Villa looks on.

THE STAFF of the Philippine Embassy to the Holy See with Cardinal Sodano and Amb. de Villa.

FILIPINO sisters in Rome crowd around Cardinal Sodano.

SPECIAL envoy of the Philippines to Europe, Cesar Bautista, with Cardinal Sodano and Amb. de Villa.



MSGR. Ruperto Santos, rector of Pontificio Collegio Filippino and Amb. de Villa present the joint gift of the Philippine Embassy the Collegio Filipino and the Sentro Pilipino chaplaincy—a wooden image of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage—to the Pope.

Philippine Embassy Celebrates 50 Years of Diplomatic Ties With The Holy See

THE PHILIPPINE Embassy to the Holy See is celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the Holy See this year.

Since March, the Embassy has been busy with the various celebrations related to this milestone. It has also been coordinating a joint celebration with the Pontificio Collegio Filipino (PCF), celebrating its 40th anniversary, and the Sentro Pilipino, the Filipino chaplaincy in Rome that is celebrating its 10th anniversary, under the banner, "A Festival of Jubilees."

On March 14, the Embassy organized a Thanksgiving liturgy or Te Deum at the PCF with the Vatican's Secretary of State, **Cardinal Angelo Sodano** presiding. The Te Deum was attended by Vatican officials and ambassadors, led by the dean of the diplomatic corps to the Holy See **HE Giovannie Galassi** of San Marino. Also present was the Philippines' Special Envoy to Europe, **Ambassador Cesar Bautista.** On June 6, the Embassy staff, led by **Ambassador Henrietta de Villa,** had the privilege to go up to the Pope during the weekly papal audience at St. Peter's Square to present their anniversary gift to him: a book-bound compilation of the complete set of the embassy newsletter, "The Embassy Digest" from 1996 to 2001. In the same audience, the three entities involved, the Embassy, the PCF and the Sentro Pilipino also presented their joint anniversary gift to the Pope: a wooden image of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage from the Philippines.

On June 12, the Embassy celebrated the 103rd anniversary of Philippine Independence by highlighting the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Holy See.

The Philippines and the Holy See formally opened diplomatic relations on April 9, 1951 during the term of President Elpidio Quirino and the reign of **Pope Pius XII**. The first Philippine ambassador to the Holy See was **Manuel V. Moran,** who was also concurrently the Philippine ambassador to Spain. The first Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines was **Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi.**

The Philippines has had 11 ambassadors to the Holy See: **Ambassador Moran, Ambassador Jose Maria Delgado** (the first resident ambassador of the Philippines to the Holy See), **Ambassador Benigno Toda, Sr., Ambassador Vicente Arenas, Ambassador Alberto Katigbak, Ambassador Carlos Valdes, Ambassador Antonio C. Delgado** (son of **Ambassador Jose Delgado**), **Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, Ambassador Howard Dee, Ambassador Oscar Villadolid** and **Ambassador de Villa.**

In her talk on June 12 during the awarding of a Presidential Citation to **Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Ambassador Henrietta de Villa** cited the 50 years of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and the Holy See.

AMBASSADOR de Villa talks about the Filipino's "journey of faith."

Now you can actually surf on your landline phone.

It used to be that you had to have a telephone and a separate computer. But thanks to developments in landline technology, you can have both in one unit. The webphone. Just one of the many ways that the landline, with its robustness, reliability, speed, clarity and bandwidth is making convergence work for you.

Online

PLDT
THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE

JOSÉ Eber with the author, Butch Lopez, and James Cooper

JOSÉ Eber

José EBER

THE ICON

BY V. CHRISTINE F. LOPEZ

THOUSANDS of women across the world from all walks of life have been transformed by his artist's eye and inspired touch. He has coiffed the heads of some of the most famous heads in Hollywood. His vision, talent and impeccable timing have created an empire. And, he is as much of a celebrity as some of his most famous clientele. Whether superstar stylist or burgeoning businessman, Josè Eber is synonymous with glamour, style, and everything fabulous.

Since the age of 26 when he arrived in America from his native France with only a few dollars in his pocket and guided by a strong belief in his abilities, Josè Eber has become the most celebrated name in hair and beauty. Firmly entrenched in the American pop culture lexicon, his name might complete a Los Angeles Times crossword puzzle or be the answer to a question on "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire."

The first time I heard about Jose' Eber was through my very good friend, James Cooper. James today is one of Manila's foremost makeup artist and also owner of the popular James Cooper cosmetic line. Long before he decided to come back to the Philippines, some sixteen years ago, to settle down here for good, James once worked with the famous singer and actress, Cher. For eight years he personally took charge of doing Cher's makeup and it was Cher who introduced James to Jose' Eber. "That's Joe-Zay not Hoe-Say darling", this, Eber would keep repeating. Jose' was so impressed with James' expertise in the art of makeup, an example of which was James' amazing self-transformation to resemble Diana Ross during some of Cher's shows, that he invited James to work for him at his Beverly Hills salon. Jose' and James complimented each other. Jose' Eber, premier hair stylist, and James Cooper, makeup expert, were as a team, a great success. TV shows like the Phil Donahue Show, Charlie's Angels and the highly rated soap opera Dallas made use of their talents. They attended to well-known stars like Victoria Principal, Linda Gray, Farrah Fawcett, Goldie Hawn and Sophia Loren. They traveled together conducting classes, seminars and extensive management training for hair care and beauty services.

When Jose' came out with his book, "Shake Your Head Darling" (Warner Brothers) featuring celebrities like Maude Adams, Ali McGraw, Angie Dickenson, Cher and many others and when he produced a video called "Why Do I Call You Sexy?", James was the sole makeup artist for both works.

Jose' Eber and James Cooper stayed together for seven years. They parted ways when James decided to come home.

I started frequenting the first James Cooper salon in Makati (James Cooper Phase I) sometime fifteen years ago in 1986. Through the years James and I have become steadfast friends. Often times he would reminisce and talk of the good old days in LA and Jose' Eber's name would always come up. To James, Eber was definitely an artist par excellence.

Last year, Eric and I, together with family and close friends came to San Francisco to attend the wedding of my son Toby to Jamille. It was during that time when James convinced me to try Jose' Eber's hair styling prowess. I found the idea exciting and appealing and so an appointment was set up. Walking into Jose' Eber's Beverly Hills salon in LA was quite an experience, heightened by the fact that Jose' nowadays hardly caters to new clients. However, Eric, myself and our group were graciously counted in because of James. Truly James was my lucky charm.

Upon arrival, Jose' gave James a great big hug and in turn warmly greeted us. After introductions he begged to be excused for a while to attend to a waiting customer. The customer was Lisa Hartman.

I was next in line. When my turn came, I felt an uncanny sense of elation knowing that the one and only Jose' Eber was doing my hair. True enough, the result was wonderful. My hair came out looking fabulous. It was indeed the perfect haircut for my kind of life style.

My first haircut lasted me for almost a year. Such is the miracle of Jose' Eber's artistry. Once again, a year after, while visiting Toby, Jamille and Emilio in San Francisco last May, I found myself looking forward to another appointment with Jose' Eber. James who also was in San Francisco on a business trip, tried to facilitate this for me. We were unable though to get through to Jose', for he was out of town. Then much to our surprise, one fine day, out of the clear blue, James got a call from LA. Jose' was on the line. He hadn't forgotten us! Evidently he had been vacationing in Texas, had just returned to LA that day and gotten our message but was leaving for Cannes the following day to attend the Cannes Film Festival with Elizabeth Taylor. However, he promised to be back in LA to meet with us on the 25th of May.

As we previously planned, James and I proceeded to LA and then we flew to Mexico with some friends to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a beautiful and touching experience. When our pilgrimage was over, we went winging back to LA.

The 25th of May came. Jose' Eber was his exuberant self all over again. He made me, my family and my friends feel so special. Later on, we all had dinner at Mojos, which is a popular but cozy, trendy but informal, upbeat little restaurant at the W Hotel in Westwood, West Hollywood. Jose' Eber's sister, Esther, came to join us. We had a terrific time.

Surprisingly in the course of that evening I discovered another side to Jose' Eber. For underneath that façade of total devotion to artistic perfection, THE MAN UNDER THE HAT, who is Jose' Eber, is also one marvelous human being — vulnerable, funny, lovable and so caring. He and James are friends in the truest sense of the word. Indeed, seeing the two of them together was so heart warming.

Through his almost four decades as a stylist, Eber has perfected his trademark *"Beauty Recognized"* philosophy. Realizing that beauty is more than hair, facial features and body type, Eber is regarded not simply for making women beautiful but for showing them that they already are. When he meets a woman, within seconds he knows how she can be more beautiful. He works with his clients to create a unified image of beauty that radiates from within. While hairstyles have come and gone, Eber's promotion of self-acceptance and individuality combined with his artistry have stood the test of time.

Indeed Jose' Eber is ageless. He is undoubtedly an incomparable master of his craft. He is—THE ULTIMATE ICON.

JOSÉ, Cher and James

CHER and José

FARRAH Fawcett and José

BUTCH with James and José

FROM left are Kelly Schoephoerster, James Cooper, José Eber and Eric Lim. Seated is Butch Lopez

ELIZABETH Taylor and José

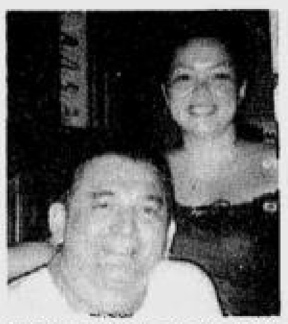
BUTCH Lopez and José

STANDING from left are Zapheria Nomicos, Adam Scott,José Eber and James Cooper. Seated from left are Peter Lopez Alejandro, Esther Tauver and John Limcaco

THE STAFF: Maria, Bengie, Marlon, Binggoy and Christoju

PREPARING a fancy meal in the kitchen

JOSANNE Garcia and Binggoy Remedios



WITH frequent guest, radio lady for NU-107, Katz Tuason.

"CHEF" Binggoy with guests, PR lady Rosary Ysmael and LA-based, Mari Crespo.

Dos Mestizos EN ICE ROCK CAFE BORACAY

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY VICKY LOPEZ

SAY what?

Just head for Boracay, an island like no other, a place you will always love, a paradise under a blue sky, a turquoise sea so tranquil, and its sand is like having your toes buried in silky white flour! Its nights are starry, starry skies, illuminated by the moon, a breeze constantly blowing. Yes, why not? Why not "become one with the island?"

Most people who live there have done that. Having set sail away from cities the world over, they have thrown anchor in Boracay. One lives the life of the islander savoring its simple pleasures and remembering paradise.

There are many places to go in that heavenly beach. The market place is a joy to shop in, filled with casual fashion and exotic home appointments. For that perfect cup of coffee, there is Nadine's and couple your cappuccino with freshly baked banana walnut muffin!

My favorite "food trip" was "Dos Mestizos en Ice rock café. " The two mestizos referred to are **Ramon Nieto,** who was not in at the time, and **Binggoy Remedios.** Two really old friends of mine. (See, the island really does something to people, it makes them hip!) **Binggoy** like many others has settled down in Boracay, first setting up the ice plant. Then, together with **Ramon,** set up their restaurant, "Dos Mestizos" referring to…"themselves truly."

Let me tell you, it's a great place to go when you've been out all day—and hungry! Like most Boracay restaurants, the setting is very natural and native. Open air, of course, the tables are covered with red checkered cloth, a yellow sail floats overhead, and brightly colored clouds are painted on one wall. There is a bar at the center and towards the rear are dozens of wine bottles strung on ropes, a tribute to all who have idled their hours well, at "Dos Mestizos."

"DOS Mestizos are we, Binggoy Remedios and Ramon Nieto, who own, operate and aspire to deliver to you our Spanish-Filipino fare."

The menu reads "Dos mestizos are we, **Binggoy Remedios,** and **Ramon Nieto,** who own, operate and aspire to deliver to you our peerless blend of Spanish-Filipino fare."

According to "chef" **Binggoy,** it is a restaurant that specializes in recipes of different families that have come down from one generation to the next in the Philippines, The recipes themselves are adaptations of Spanish ones, so the cooking is mestizo. Both **Ramon** and **Binggoy** come from families who love to cook and really appreciate good food.

We left it all up to **Binggoy.** And if you ever get there—trust me—that is what you'll want to do.

First came the *tapas*: succulent *gambas al ajillo, salpicao and jamon serrano* served with their own hot , freshly baked bread and robust Spanish wine. Then came a *paella* of seafood. Its flavors were so scrumptious, we ate to our hearts' content. And as if we were starving, next served were freshly caught crabs, deliciously cooked in mestizo version "ala than long." All the time, **Binggoy** was making sure we were enhancing the meal and ourselves with "el vino." He did let us rest for a moment of conversation then he brought out a wonderful, brandy flavored, *mantecado* ice cream to finish the meal. By that time we were ready to be rolled out of "Dos Mestizo's."

Our chef then became our evening's guide, bringing us to all the hot spots of Boracay! What else can I say? If you go there, experience everything, experience this happy feast, and be sure to kiss the cook!

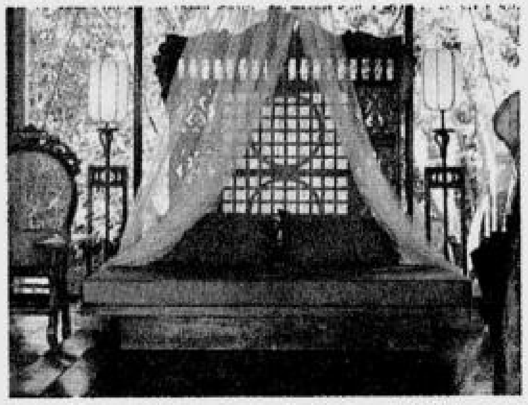
Designer Gardens Highlighted in 4th Issue of…

THE LUSH greenery of a sprawling backyard takes the spotlight in this month's "My Home" magazine, an issue dedicated primarily to garden havens.

Landscape design pioneer **Rico Sison**, widely known for his intricate work at the Tagaytay Highlands, displays how a former unattended pocket of land can be transformed into every man's tropical paradise.

Also taking center stage this month is the celebrity home of showbiz couple **Ogie Alcasid** and wife **Michelle van Eimeren**. A modern yet homey three-storey townhouse in Quezon City, the dwelling is a perfect example of a family-friendly home. Beautiful and breathtaking condominiums, as well as other city and vacation homes are also highlighted, featuring a vast array of design and lifestyle ideas for today's resident. For the *Tablescapes* section, a regular feature of "My Home," festive Asian-themed table settings are artistically showcased.

Published by Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine Publishing, Inc. (MPPI), the magazine continues to provide the modern Filipino homeowner with the tools necessary to live in today's ever-changing world. "My Home" is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops natiowide for P125.



A BEDROOM al fresco from the pages of "My Home."

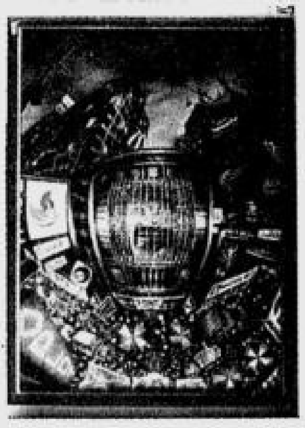
OGIE Alcasid and Michelle van Eimeren at home.

myhome
EARTH+STYLE
making beautiful lifestyles happen
Lush Life

THE COVER of "My Home"

Breaking Barriers XIV
DOW
THE 2001 NATIONAL ART CONTEST FOR THE HANDICAPPED
ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI CENTRAL
A project of DOW Chemical Pacific Ltd., Rotary Club of Makati Central and Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

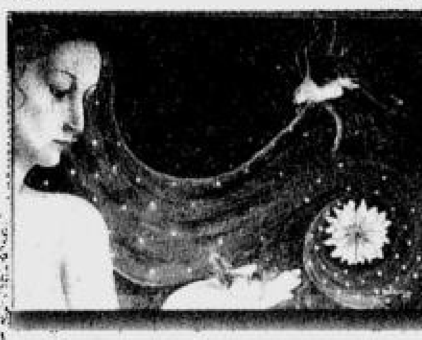
CIRCLE OF WINNERS



"The Last Gasp of A Healthy Tradition Amidst Suffocating Progress"

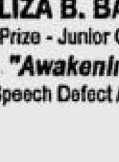
AMELITO C. REGALADO
Grand Prize
Speech Defect / Mute

FILIPINO D. GONZALES
Runner-up
Polio-Foot

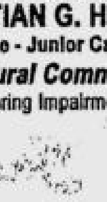


"Hopes and Dreams"

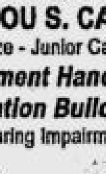
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CATEGORY



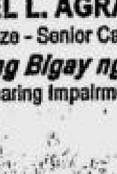
MONALIZA B. BARBERAN
1st Prize - Junior Category
"Awakening"
Speech Defect / Mute



CHRISTIAN G. HIPONA
2nd Prize - Junior Category
"The Rural Community"
Hearing Impairment



DEBBIE LOU S. CABALUNA
3rd Prize - Junior Category
"Environment Hand In Hand In Nation Building"
Hearing Impairment



ROMMEL L. AGRAVANTE
1st Prize - Senior Category
"Mahalin ang Bigay ng Maykapal"
Hearing Impairment

EDGARDO F. TUAZON
2nd Prize
"Genesis 2"
Polio-Foot

ALDRIN B. TINAMPAY
3rd Prize
"The Illustration of Healthy Living Things"
Hearing Impairment

Consolation Prizes

MA. THERESA YULO
"Combating Greenwich Effect"
Speech Defect / Deaf

ULYSSES M. REALIN
"Tree of Life"
Muscular Dystrophy

FLORENCEO C. RAÑADA
"A Healthy Family Makes A Healthy Country"
Hearing Impairment / Mute

JOEL S. CRUZ
"Ang Tunay na Daan sy Kasipagan sa Megandang Kapaligiran"
Polio Hand

ULYSSES M. REALIN
"Tomorrow's Clean and Healthy Living"
Muscular Dystrophy

JONATHAN CALON
"Naturo Loro"
Mental Retardation

JONATHAN CALON
"Oil Mansion"
Mental Retardation

JEFFREY CALON
"Bayanihan"
Mental Retardation

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CATEGORY

SUDHIR BARYANANI
1st Prize
"Man"
Mental Retardation

REGINALD V. KHO
2nd Prize
"Here I Am"
Autism

JEFFREY CALON
3rd Prize
"Ang Leon at ang Daga"
Mental Retardation

Regional Category

LOUIE M. ARANDIA
Region I
"Save Mother Nature"
Hearing Impairment

JOAN B. PASCUAL
Region III
"Saving Environment in Bottle"
Hearing Impairment

MARY JANE P. RAYMUNDO
NCR Region
"Ang Kayamanan sa Bukid"
Hearing Impairment

MA. THERESA YULO
NCR Region
"The Profile of Filipinos' Surroundings"
Speech Defect / Deaf

CRISTITO O. VIVO
Region IV
"Water Color 1"
Hearing Impairment

ANITA LOPEZ
Region VII
"Stay at Home: The Summer Playground"
Speech Defect / Mute

SANTIAGO CATUBIG
Region X
"The Road to A Healthy Environment"
Hearing Impairment

GIL P. DE GUZMAN
Special Citation
"The Urban Life"
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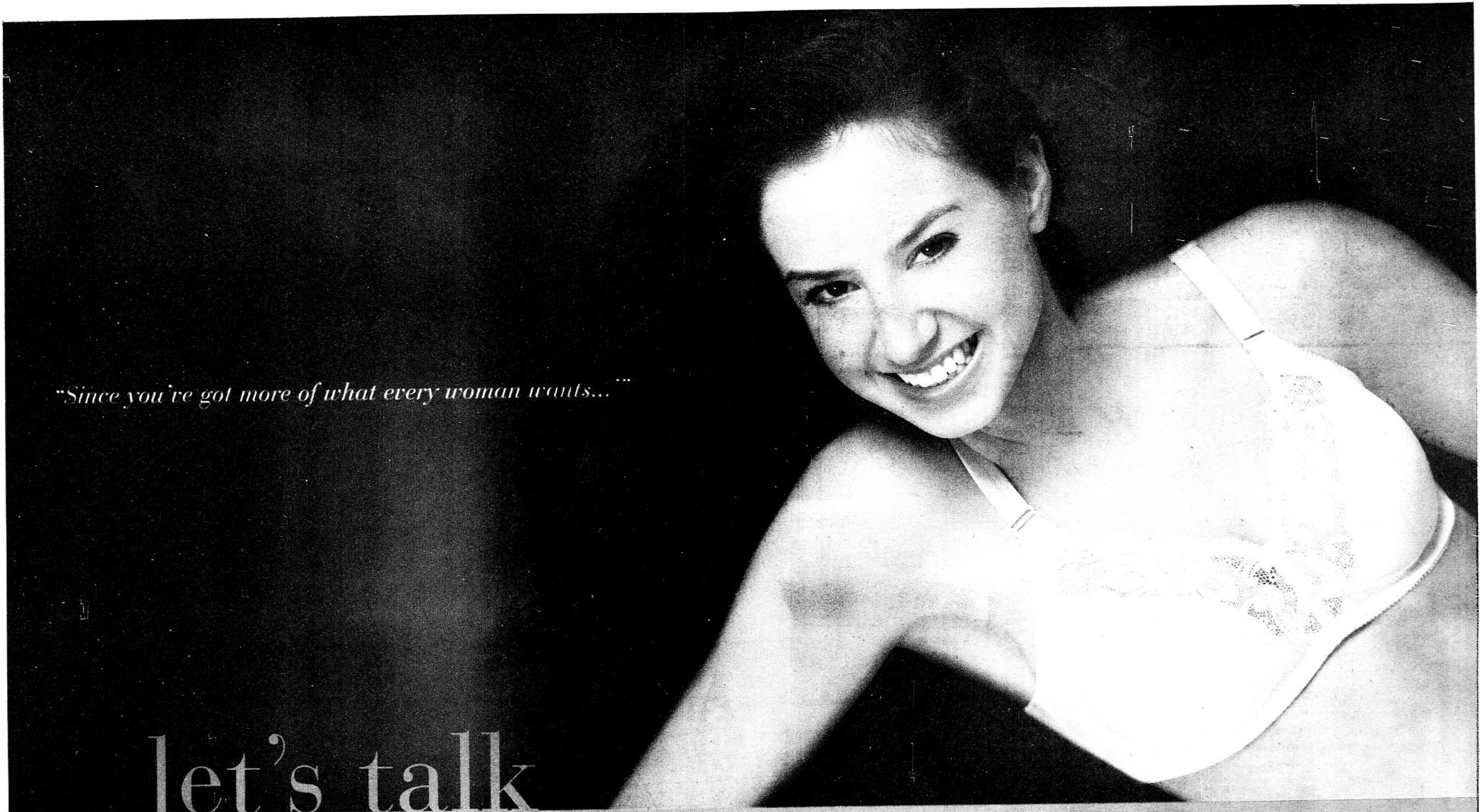
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TOR U. TORRE, Editor D SICAM, Associ

"RUSH HOUR 2." Biggest comedy debut ever.

Chan, Tucker rush to top of box office with 'Rush Hour 2'

LOS ANGELES—Traffic was heavy for "Rush Hour 2," the Jackie Chan-Chris Tucker action comedy that debuted as the top weekend movie with $67.4 million.

Sequel

The buddy-cop sequel had the biggest comedy debut ever and the third-best non-holiday opening on record, according to studio estimates. The top non-holiday debut came the previous weekend when "Planet of the Apes" grossed $68.5 million. "The Mummy Returns" is No. 2 with $68.1 million last May.

Two other new movies debuted in the top 10. "The Princess Diaries," starring Julie Andrews and Anne Hathaway, was No. 3 with $22.9 million. "Original Sin," starring Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie, had a weak sixth-place opening of $6.4 million.

Top 20 movies

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday last week, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc.:

1. "Rush Hour 2," New Line, $67.4 million, 3,118

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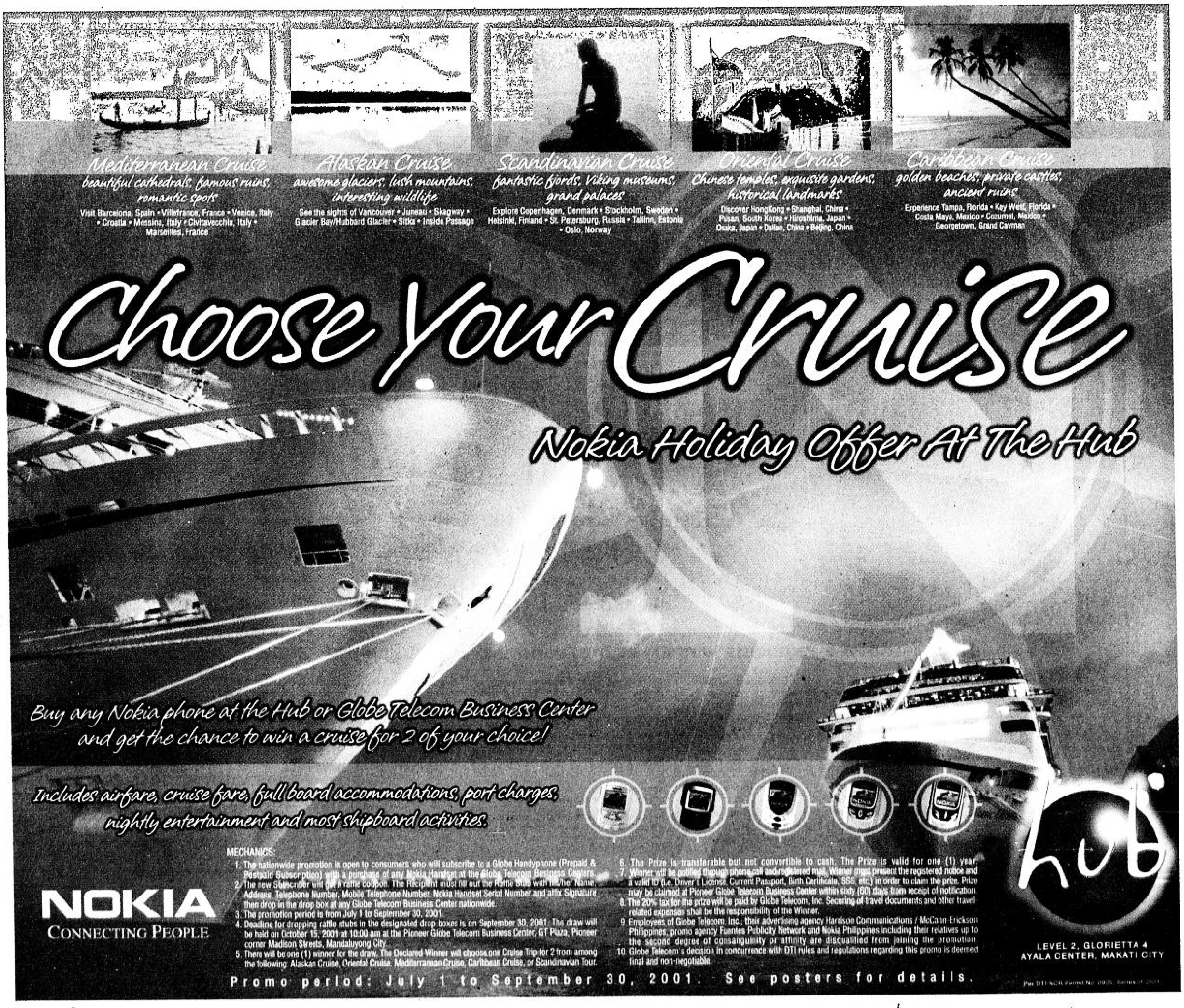

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Promo period: July 1 to September 30, 2001. See posters for details.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0905, Series of 2001

MOVIE OF THE WEEK

'Moulin Rouge' reinvents the musical film

By Nestor U. Torre

BAZ Luhrmann's "Moulin Rouge" has effectively reinvented the musical film for today's young moviegoers. The filmmaker's signature ornate and mod style is put to visually exciting use to tell the slim story of a consumptive beauty's tragic love affair with an impoverished writer, despite the lavish importunings and distractions of an obscenely wealthy duke.

Perfervid imagination

The movie's plot *is* gaunt, but it's not really the production's cause for being. It merely serves as a skeleton for Luhrmann to flesh out with the wildest images from his perfervid imagination.

He has so many inspired visuals to show that he sometimes has to sequence them in different levels within the same frame, with different things happening front, middle and aft.

He does go over the top—*way* over—but instead of protesting, most viewers accept his charged depiction of his story's hyper-reality, and gleefully go along for the ride.

Dazzling trip

It's quite a dizzying, dazzling trip energized by Luhrmann's obvious love for the cinema's visual magic, and its ability to create its own psychedelic kind of reality.

KIDMAN AND MCGREGOR. A psychedelic kind of reality.

The point to all this inspired excess? First, it vivifies the movie's theme, which is the utter desirability and importance of love. To render this belief in an acute and overpowering way, Luhrmann suffuses the screen with stunning images that provide a visual correlative to love's extreme beauty and pain.

Second, the "excessive" visuals make the film more accessible to today's MTV-oriented viewers, with their short attention span, unfamiliarity with subtlety, and love for high-tech lushness.

Strongest suit

Again, older viewers may accuse the filmmaker of selling out to the shallow youth, but he wouldn't regard that as such a terrible crime. He's chosen to connect with young moviegoers by communicating to them in their own visual language, and even regards that capitulation as his strongest suit.

In a similarly daring fashion, Luhrmann has turned the movie musical on its ear by changing the rules governing its choice of songs. Traditionally, most musical films employ original songs which are written specially for the production, to vivify certain plot or character points. In "Moulin Rogue," the songs still have something to do with the development of the material, but most of them aren't original.

Decades

In fact, they're "borrowed" from such diverse and even contradictory sources as the Beatles and "The Sound of Music"! To make things worse, they aren't even true to the movie's period, but flit willy-nilly through the decades, and even the centuries.

This is occasionally distracting, but it is also sometimes purposefully attention-calling, like a private joke shared between viewer and filmmaker.

So far, so audacious—and acceptable. But the movie goes too far when it casts relative non-singers like Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor in lead roles.

Result

The result is merely tuneful singing, a far cry from the aurally ravishing performances turned in by the singing stars of other musical films.

This is a big diminution in the musical film's ability to use its music to charge its viewers and listeners with high emotion. In "Moulin Rogue," it's the visuals that do this, while the singing merely squeaks along.

If Luhrmann plans to direct more musical movies, he should re-think his cavalier disregard for truly stellar singing. Then he will emerge as the film musical's true re-creator and savior.

On eve of divorce, Kidman, Cruise arrive separately for 'The Others' premiere

By Robert Jablon

LOS ANGELES—On the eve of their divorce, Nicole Kidman arrived minus Tom Cruise Tuesday evening for the premiere of her new movie "The Others."

Red carpet

Accompanied by actresses Naomi Watts and Rebecca Rigg, two of her closest friends, as well as "The Others" director Alejandro Amenabar, Kidman stepped onto the red carpet in front of the Directors Guild of America's screening auditorium to shouts of "Nicole! Nicole!"

Wearing a black dress shot with silver, her hair in a ponytail and a silver necklace around her neck, she spent several minutes autographing fans' pictures and shaking hands before walking inside for a series of interviews.

Cruise arrived separately about 20 minutes later and also went through the barrage of cameras. He was one of the film's executive producers.

Wearing black pants and a white, striped shirt, open at the neck and rolled to the elbows, Cruise appeared relaxed as he strode up the red carpet. Kidman was already inside and they did not see each other as they arrived.

Cruise, who arrived alone, was asked how he deals with the publicity surrounding his divorce and his personal life.

"Tell 'em to mind their own business," he said with a laugh.

"There are certain things I just don't pay attention to," he added. "You just have to go on with your life."

Cruise said it shouldn't be surprising that both he and Kidman attended the premiere.

"We're here, we love what we do, we love films . . . We feel privileged to be doing something that we enjoy doing," he said.

Irreconcilable differences

Kidman and Cruise's divorce becomes final on Wednesday, six months after Cruise filed the papers citing irreconcilable differences.

The couple agreed to share custody of their children, Conor, 6, and Isabella, 8. A hearing has been scheduled Oct. 4 to work out financial and property issues.

"The Others," an old-school haunted house movie, stars Kidman as a control-freak mother holed up with her two children in a spooky old mansion at the end of World War II.

"It's about things that go bump in the night," Kidman quipped. *AP*

MISALUCHA. Incredible range.

Lani Misalucha conquers Cebu

By Jocelyn Valle

FOR the past four weekends, singer Lani Misalucha has been going to Cebu. She's visited several radio stations and a couple of malls there. She's met the Cebuano press and most importantly, her fans, who are the reason why she's a regular visitor to the Queen City of the South in the first place.

Love affair

Lani's love affair with the Visayan audience started two years ago. In a concert with Jaya, Ogie Alcasid and Janno Gibbs, Lani impressed the Cebuano audience with powerful and textured renditions of popular tunes.

The Cebuanos loved her even more when she came back later as a guest artist in Gary Valenciano's and then in Martin Nievera's shows. They realized Lani could match the two pop superstars' exceptional talents, intensity and charisma.

That's why the people behind the Crossover radio station (105.1 in Manila) decided to showcase Lani in its current "Crossover Live Tour," after Martin and Jaya. "We saw how the crowd reacted positively to Lani," Crossover's president, Louie Villar, recalls, adding that his station believes in local talent, hence it produces a lot of concerts.

"Crossover Live Tour" kicked off last Aug. 4 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug City, Cebu and will culminate on Sept. 8 at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. We've been to the Cebu leg of Lani's concert tour and we're positive that the singer who once sang only for multiplex tapes can replicate its success.

Able handling

With the able handling of musical director Louie Ocampo and stage director Rowell Santiago, the usual concert formula of singer + dancers + guest artists + audience participation + encore became more engaging.

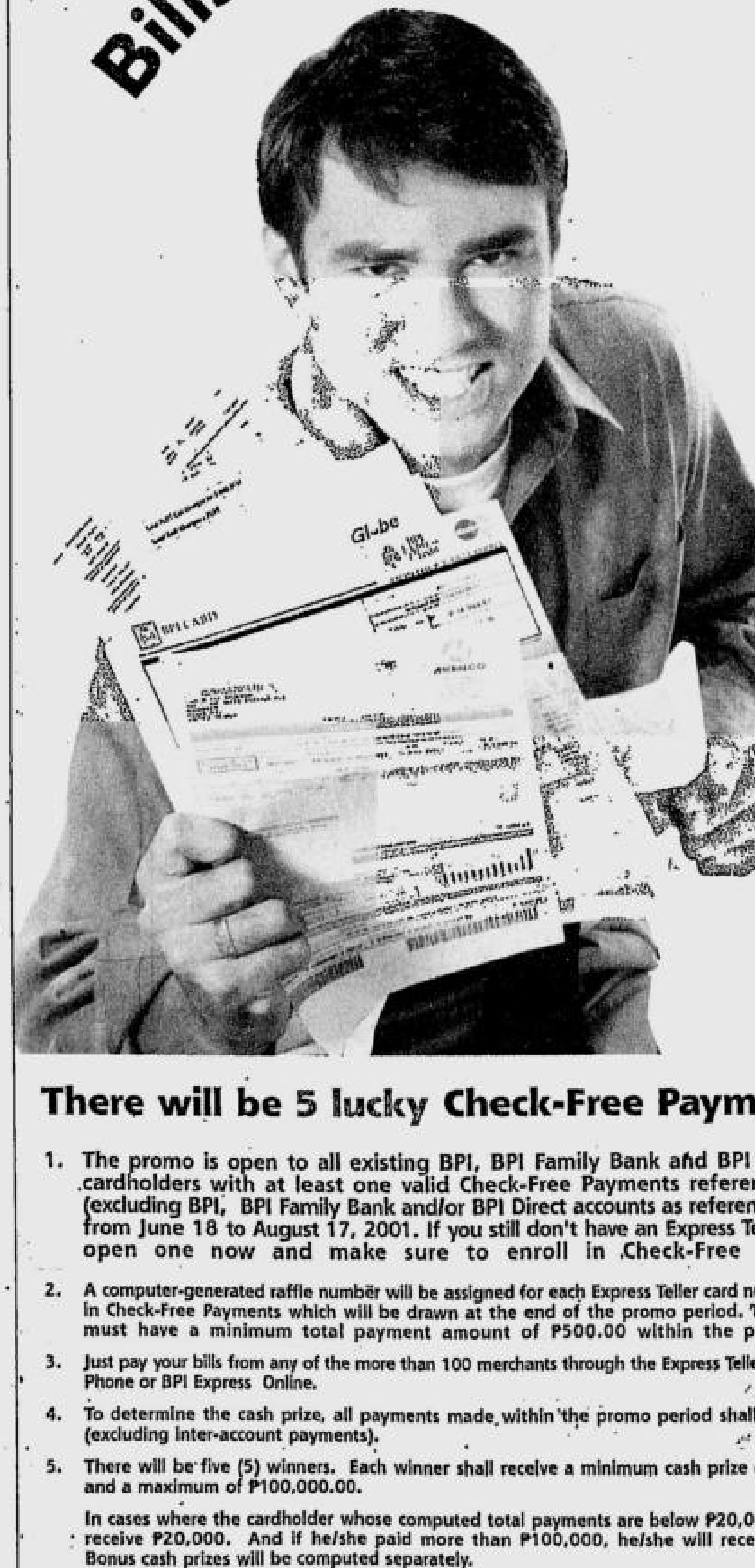
Knowing fully well Lani's incredible range and her admirable capability to make each song she sings truly hers, Ocampo came up with an interesting line-up of numbers that endeared Lani to listeners of both pop and the not-so-pop tunes.

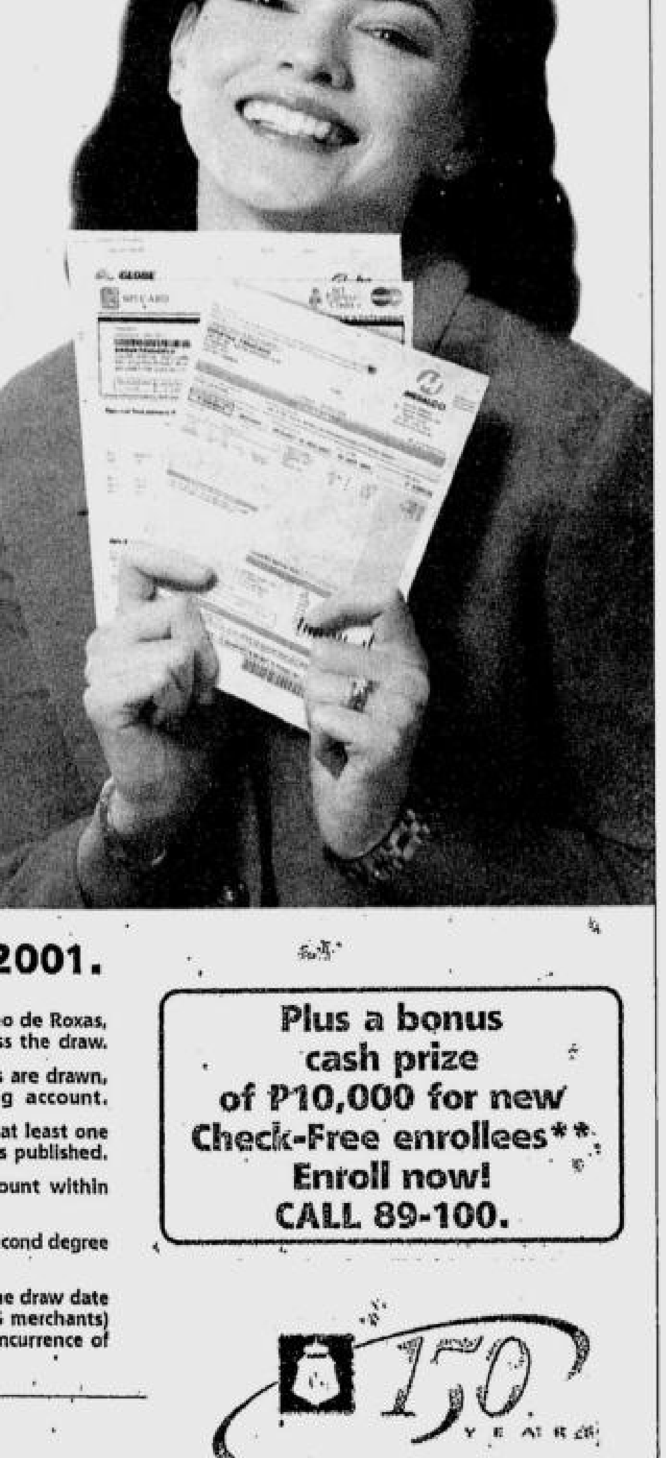
For instance, Lani sang the Italian version of "My Heart Will Go On (Il Mio Core)" and it was like hearing "Titanic's" theme song for the first time. We also liked the jazzy version of Ryan Cayabyab's "Limang-Dipang Tao" and Lani's rendition of the aria used in Bruce Willis' futuristic starrer, "The Fifth Element." Daring moves like these make the concert scene a lot livelier.

The hands-down favorite, though, was Lani's impersonation of her fellow divas like Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya and Regine Velasquez. The audience was in stitches as Lani aped the Divine Diva with the trademark sexy intonation, the luscious lips and gestures.

When we heard the familiar strains of "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," we anticipated guest artist Joey Generoso's appearance. After all, they've recorded a duet of the Ocampo original for Channel 7's soap. But Side A's vocalist sang "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" with Lani in-

LANI/p.D4





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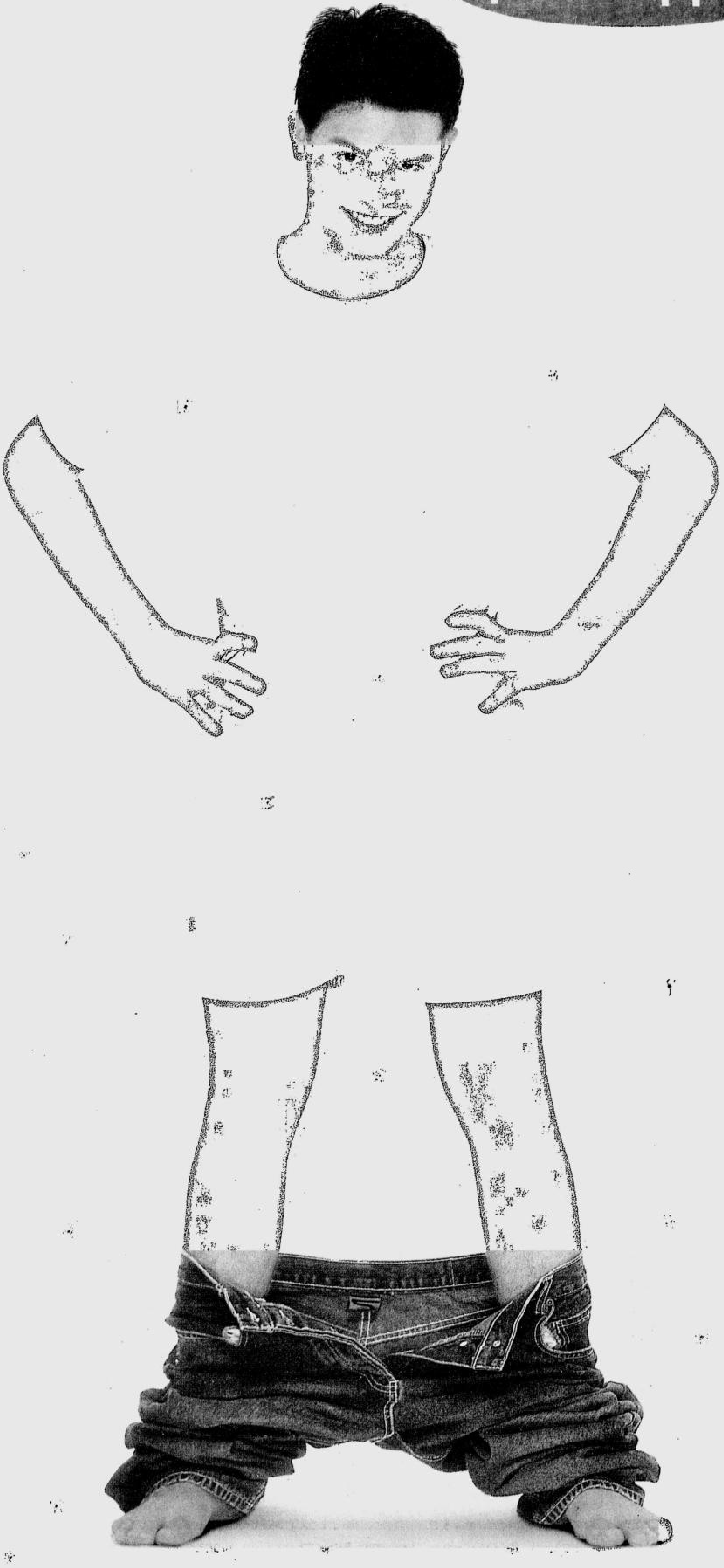

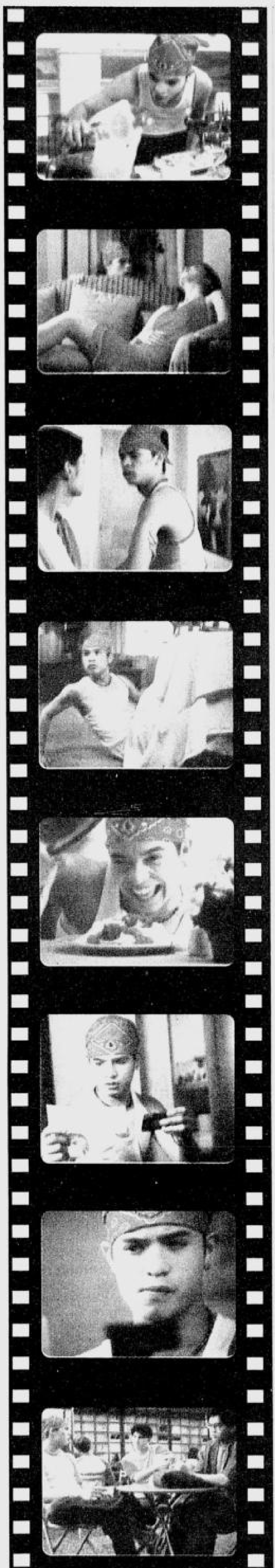

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Three candidates for stardom

By Edmund L. Sicam

TELEVISION is a voracious medium when it comes to performers. Networks are always looking for discoveries so that when the fickle audience gets tired of the current crop of stars, the fresh faces can take over and try their luck.

CUYUGAN. Gay role.

AGUILAR. Unusual interests.

BAYLE. Dancing is her forte.

Meet three new candidates for stardom from ABS-CBN. They're not exactly neophytes since they've had their share of TV appearances. Twenty-year-old Justin Cuyugan has caught the attention of soap addicts for his portrayal of Claudine Barretto's gay friend. Drinie Aguilar, 20, is one of the co-hosts of "ASAP." Another 20-year-old, Michelle Bayle, as her surname indicates, dances on "Keep on Dancing."

Ad Faces title

Justin won the Ad Faces title four years ago and was launched as part of Star Circle Batch 6. The six-footer started out in "Kaybol" and "Esperanza" and guested on many drama shows of the network. As part of his self-improvement program, he immersed himself in theater and played a major role in the play "Batang Pro."

It is, however, his role as Dondi, the gay confidante of Claudine in "Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan," that's generating buzz in the industry. Many actors do not usually audition for gay roles, lest they be suspected of being a homosexual offscreen. Justin, however, has no insecurities about his masculinity and readily tried out for the part of Dondi. Now, he feels flattered when people call him by his name in the soap.

Justin doesn't want to be typecast, however. He appeared as a *probinsiyano* who is a robbery suspect in "Kabalikat: Loren Legarda" and will soon take on an offbeat role in "Star Studio."

Tomboy

While Justin may be teased because of his gay role, Drinie may find herself being tagged as a tomboy because of her interests. To begin with, she was named Alexandrinie after Alexander the Great and even played a male role in "West Side Story" as one of the Jets.

She's a very athletic person and was once a member of the UP Varsity soccer team. She loves all kinds of physically demanding sports like surfing and martial arts, and goes for body piercing. She has room in her ears for seven earrings, has a trinket on her tongue and another one in her belly button.

But she looks very feminine in person. She is also not a rebel. At the press lunch, we didn't know about her interest in body piercing until she showed us all the trinkets attached to her body. She did play a rebellious character in the soap "Labs Ko Si Babe" but she says that she's the exact opposite. She admits that between the ages of 17 to 19, she had her share of "rebellious" moments.

No romance

Today, she is focused on her career, foregoing romantic relationships because they might "weight her down." Despite her unusual interests, she's all woman and has in fact modeled for beauty products

If she had her way, she'd like to get involved in public affairs broadcasting. From the way she handled our questions, we could see she has great potential as a newscaster or talk show host. She's planning to audition for a possible opening in the ABS-CBN News Channel.

At the moment, her hosting job is on a variety show ("ASAP"), something that she enjoys because she loves to dance.

When it comes to dancing, Michelle probably has the most extensive experience. Her interest in dancing started when she was taking ballet lessons as a child. In Canada, she became interested in cheerleading, something which involves a lot of dancing. She passed the auditions despite the heavy competition.

Star Teens Canada

After winning the Star Teens Canada tilt in Toronto, she flew to the Philippines to try her luck in show business. Michelle has actually spent more time in the Philippines.

That's why she has no problem with Tagalog. She was 14 when she and her family moved to Toronto. Her parents, both Filipinos, are already divorced.

Her mom, the former Maricel Quintos was Miss Manila in the 1970s. She is now based in Canada.

Although Michelle is willing to accept sexy roles, she will only go as far as wearing a two-piece bathing suit. She would rather not bare more than that.

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AUG. 18-19 GAISANO CTR, BOGO

LUZON
AUG. 17-19 FAMILY DRUG STORE, SM BACOOR
AUG. 24-26 FAMILY DRUG STORE, SM MEGAMALL

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AUG. 10-11 GAISANO MALL, CAGAYAN DE ORO
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AUG. 21-26 JS CITIMALL, TAGUM CITY
AUG. 28-SEPT. 2 DCWC, DIGOS
SEPT. 4-9 GAISANO MALL, DAVAO CITY
SEPT. 11-16 NCCC, DAVAO CITY

British filmfest unreels on Aug. 15

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"LIGHT and Shadow," a weeklong festival of contemporary British films, opens on Aug. 15 at Cinema 2 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall with the invitational screening of award-winning director Mark Herman's "Pure Belter."

Regular filmfest screenings start on Aug. 16 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The films to be featured are "Love's Labours Lost" by Kenneth Branagh, "Wild About Harry" by Decian Lowney, "Wonderland" by Michael Winterbottom, "Hotel Splendide" by Terence Gross, "Saving Grace" by Nigel Cole, and Herman's "Pure Belter." Capsule descriptions:

"Pure Belter" is a bittersweet comedy about two juveniles who are set to pursue their dreams, whatever it takes. The farther away their goal seems to be, the more desperate they are to reach it. (Director Herman's acclaimed hits include "Brassed Off" and "Little Voice").

"Saving Grace" stars Brenda Blethyn as a widow who risks losing her estate because of the huge debts her husband left. To solve her financial problems, she raises and sells—marijuana plants!

"Wonderland" seeks to capture everyday life in London by following three generations of one family through one cold weekend during the city's traditional Bonfire Night celebration.

"Hotel Splendide" is about a family's attempts to maintain a dilapidated hotel and health spa on a remote island off the British coast.

Branagh's "Love's Labours Lost" is a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy that's set in the last few days of World War Two. It features musical numbers by the likes of Cole Porter and Irving Berlin, performed in the classic style of old MGM musicals.

"Wild About Harry" is about a former talk show host who falls into a coma. When he wakes up, he has forgotten 25 years of his life. He is given a chance to redeem his life—if only he can remember how it all went wrong!

Screening schedules: Aug. 16, 1 p.m., "Love's Labours Lost;" 4 p.m., "Wild About Harry;" 7 p.m., "Saving Grace."

Aug. 17, 1 p.m., "Hotel Splendide;" 4 p.m., "Pure Belter;" 7 p.m., "Love's Labours Lost."

Aug. 18, 1 p.m., "Wild About Harry;" 4 p.m., "Saving Grace;" 7 p.m., "Hotel Splendide."

Aug. 19, 1 p.m., "Pure Belter;" 4 p.m., "Love's Labours Lost;" 7 p.m., "Wild About Harry."

Aug. 20, 1 p.m., "Saving Grace;" 4 p.m., "Hotel Splendide;" 7 p.m., "Pure Belter."

Aug. 21, "Love's Labours Lost;" 4 p.m., "Wild About Harry;" 7 p.m., "Saving Grace."

Aug. 22, 1 p.m., "Hotel Splendide;" 4 p.m., "Pure Belter;" 7 p.m., "Love's Labours Lost."

Call 633-7851, local 106.

Ghost and gods

At 7 p.m. today (Aug. 11) on the National Geographic Channel, "Spiritual World" launches the cable channel's "Ghost Month" of August. The program's features include:

"Back from the Dead:" Investigators meet a number of Lebanese children believed by their families to be reincarnations of dead people.

"Hungry Ghost of the Chinese World:" The Chinese believe that every year during the seventh Lunar month (around August on the Gregorian calendar), souls are released from the netherworld to roam freely on earth. In order to appease these wandering spirits, the living offer food and entertainment.

"Spirits and Gods:" Blood flows in the streets of Phuket, Thailand as spirit mediums mutilate themselves during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which celebrates the end of a plague in the 18th century.

Meet Tanya Varona

VARONA. "Star Search" finalist in the States.

Tanya Varona is only 17, but she's already making a name for herself as a singer. She is the featured chanteuse every Monday night at the famous Celesa Music Bar and Lounge at Hyatt Regency Manila.

Tanya has trained with exceptional music teachers like Cecille Azarcon and Jan Linders in the USA and Ryan Cayabyab in the Philippines. She and her family lived abroad for seven years.

In the States, she made it as finalist on the "Star Search" TV show, performed at the Debbie Reynolds Hotel, and studied at the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts.

School reunion

All members of San Francisco High School (formerly Don M. Marcos HS) Batch '77 are urged to attend a membership meeting to be held today, Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. at F. Benitez Hall, UP Diliman. Call Edna Dolores at 453-2163 or Virgie Basa-Cortina at 371-3773.

Nido Little Artists exhibit

At 4 p.m. today, the Nido Little Artists exhibit will be opened at SM Megamall Atrium B. The exhibit is the culmination of the little Artists Workshop held by Nido and some children's art schools in Metro Manila. A total of 167 entries were chosen this year, some of them from Cebu, Davao, Iloilo.

'Planet of the Apes' premiere

MTV Philippines presents the exclusive screening of "Planet of the Apes" on Aug. 13 at Cinema 6 at Glorietta 4. To win free ticket and premium items simply answer this question: "Planet of the Apes" is directed by A) Tim Burton B) Erap C) April Boy or D) Ai-Ai delas Alas. Fax your answer to 8481319 or 8481320, leave your answer with the MTV hotline at 882-1866 or send it to P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City.

'XYZ'

At 7 tonight "XYZ" on the ABS-CBN News Channel focuses on provocative topics: body language, devirginization, masturbation and orgasm. Ida Vargas directs.

Piano concert in Catanduanes

The full-length concertos of Edward Grieg and Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky will be heard for the first time in Catanduanes at 7 tonight, when acclaimed pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes perform at the grand lobby of the Provincial Capitol. The concert is sponsored by the Catanduanes chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross and the provincial government. For invitational tickets, call (052) 811-2279.

Chan, Tucker . . .

(From page D1)

locations, $21,619 average, $67.4 million, one week.

2. "Planet of the Apes," Fox, $27.5 million, 3,530 locations, $7,800 average, $123.7 million, two weeks.

3. "The Princess Diaries," Disney, $22.9 million, 2,537 locations, $9,012 average, $22.9 million, one week.

4. "Jurassic Park III," Universal, $12.3 million, 3,462 locations, $3,545 average, $147 million, three weeks.

5. "America's Sweethearts," Sony, $8 million, 3,011 locations, $2,670 average, $74.7 million, three weeks.

6. "Original Sin," MGM, $6.4 million, 2,194 locations, $2,918 average, $6.4 million, one week.

7. "Legally Blonde," MGM, $5.9 million, 2,536 locations, $2,307 average, $71.4 million, four weeks.

8. "The Score," Paramount, $4.9 million, 2,211 locations, $2,200 average, $57.2 million, four weeks.

9. "Dr. Dolittle 2," Fox, $2.3 million, 1,681 locations, $1,352 average, $106.2 million, seven weeks.

10. "Cats & Dogs," Warner Bros., $2.2 million, 2,122 locations, $1,042 average, $86.7 million, five weeks.

11. "The Fast and the Furious," Universal, $2.1 million, 1,620 locations, $1,315 average, $137 million, seven weeks.

12. "Scary Movie 2," Miramax, $1.2 million, 1,312 locations, $902 average, $70 million, five weeks.

13. "Shrek," DreamWorks, $1.1 million, 1,010 locations, $1,062 average, $257.9 million, 12 weeks.

14. "Kiss of the Dragon," Fox, $714,221, 591 locations, $1,208 average, $34.7 million, five weeks.

15. "Made," Artisan, $600,098, 117 locations, $5,129 average, $2.3 million, four weeks.

16. "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," Paramount, $522,794, 690 locations, $758 average, $129.5 million, eight weeks.

17. "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," Disney, $441,726, 501 locations, $882 average, $80.5 million, nine weeks.

18. "Pearl Harbor," Disney, $434,965, 462 locations, $941 average, $194.6 million, 11 weeks.

19. "The Closet," Miramax, $411,060, 128 locations, $3,211 average, $3.4 million, six weeks.

20. "Ghost World," MGM, $342,576, 23 locations, $14,895 average, $739,623, three weeks. *AP*

Lani Misalucha . . .

(From page D2)

stead. They also did a medley of Air Supply hits, plus Joey's take on Aerosmith's "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing."

The other guest artist, newcomer Malik, performed one of Shaggy's current chartbusters, "It Wasn't Me." He and Joey will support Lani again at Araneta (hopefully with better solo numbers), along with Martin.

The crowd went wild again when Lani did the "Lovin' You" number and dared her listeners to sing the vocally challenging refrain of the love song. But there was also warmth as the audience applauded Lani's version of "Kapantay Ay Langit" in Cebuano.

"I've always been mistaken for a Cebuano," she told the audience. "I love coming here and I'm eager to learn to speak Cebuano." She then tried to compare some Tagalog and Cebuano words, ending with the realization that her maiden name, Bayot, means gay in Cebu.

Lani was enjoying herself, too. "*Importante ang* reception *ng* audience," she told us after the show. "Pacified *ka*. Before the show *kasi, hindi mo alam ang mangyayari*. So, *ninenerbiyos*, anxious, stressed-out, upset *ang tiyan ko*. *Wala naman akong ganang kumain. Iba-iba ang nararamdaman mo*.

"Will they appreciate me? *Kapag nasa likod na ako ng* curtain, I keep telling myself *na* 'this is it!' During the first number *naman*, I ask myself: 'Will I make it till the end?'"

And she does. The Araneta gig, though her biggest to date, should be no different.

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Daily prizes and surprises await all visitors and with every minimum purchase of P2,000.00, lucky customers get a chance to win in the Grand Raffle to be held at Silicon Valley ParkSquare, Makati City on August 17,2001, 3:00 p.m.

Get all these and more as Silicon Valley lets you get real wild and ready to party with True Faith on the Grand Opening Night on August 11. Visit www.siliconvalley.com.ph for more exciting details. Other major credit cards accepted at all Silicon Valley outlets.

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Competition Rules

1. Anchor Embroidery Threads should be used for Cross Stitch, Free Style Embroidery, Friendship Bracelet and Paper Embroidery. Presentation of bands for the categories below are required upon submission.

2. Cannon Crochet Balls should be used for Beaded Crochet Bag, Crochet Blouse and Tatted Dolly / Centerpiece Category. Presentation of bands for the above category are also required upon submission.

3. Entries for Cross Stitch and Freestyle Embroidery Competition should not be framed and could be of any size.

4. There should be five entries per category to declare winners.

5, Deadline for submission of entries is October 15, 2001.

6. Winning entries will be framed and displayed during the Arts & Crafts Day to be held in the following venues and dates:

Robinsons Galleria
November 16, 17, 18

Farmers Plaza
Atrium - November 23, 24 & 25

Crafts	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
CrossStitch- Still and Scenery	15,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
CrossStitch- Filipiniana	15,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Needlepoint (on canvas) of any NeedleWorld Design	8,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
FreeStyle Embroidery Flowers	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Crocheted Blouse	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Tatted Dolly or Centerpiece	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Beaded Crochet Bag	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Paper Embroidery	2,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Friendship Bracelet	1,000.00	500.00	300.00
Paper Tole with Miniatures	8,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
Special Category-Framing	7,000.00	3,000.00	----------
Beaded Bag	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Latch Hook	4,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Parchment Craft	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Paper Quilling	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00

For further details, you may visit your nearest craft stores or call:

Coats Thread Philippines
Tel. No.: 6412401 to 10 6412462 to 70
Toll Free #1800-1888-2001

NAP Secretariat
9111464 look for Rena

"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

"I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine -- *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.

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Two new CDs keep rock 'n' roll hopes alive

By Pocholo Concepcion

ADD two names to a list of CDs worth scoring to stave off that hunger for music that truly rocks.

First: SR 71. Whatever it means, let's not bother. What matter are the members—Mitch Allen (lead vocals, guitar); Dan Garvin (drums, percussion, vocals); Jeff Reid (bass, vocals); and Mark Beauchemin (guitar, keyboards, vocals)—and the album they have recorded.

Emotional shields

Titled "Now You See Inside," this is an album that breaks down walls that people create as emotional shields against life's troubles.

In a span of 11 songs, SR 71 tells the listener what it's like to open up the heart and sing out one's innermost thoughts. The first lines in the track opener, "Politically Correct" go off like warning shots to avoid misinterpretation: "I don't mean to piss you off with things I might say/But when I try to shut my mouth, they come out anyway . . ."

The sound of fired up guitars combined with rumbling drums in the second cut, "Right Now," captures the disorientating sense that hot romance brings. Contradictions abound in the lyrics ("I know she may not be Miss Right, but she'll do right now"), in which the male persona narrates the love-hate nature of an affair.

Personal expression

The stories continue, most of them sustained by the intensity of personal expression. Even a mid-tempo song like "Last Man on the Moon" shines with the clashing images of despair ("I used to live in a world of black and white/Until my dreams turned day into night").

Don't be misled, however, by such titles as "Empty Spaces," "Another Night Alone," or "Go Away" that seem to suggest that there ain't nothing but misery in the music of SR 71.

On the contrary, a whole new world of gladness and good vibes opens up in these songs, if only for the vitality with which they were expressed.

SR 71 obviously had fun doing this album. As finale, how else explain the intentions behind the cryptic sentiments in "Paul MacCartney": "Tell each other's lies in a world so much brighter if Paul were still alive . . ."

WEEZER. Make the old sound new and exciting.

Meanwhile, Weezer (vocalist-guitarist Rivers Cuomo, guitarist Brian Bell, bassist Mikey Welsh, drummer Pat Wilson) is another band dead-set on keeping hopes alive in the power of rock 'n' roll.

Fans of this band, said to be one of the most popular in America at the moment, like to refer to its third and latest, self-titled output as "The Green Album" due to its cover color.

Green with envy

In effect, other bands may turn green with envy at the way the songs of Weezer win us over. It's not so much their distinct quality of earthshaking originality that we appreciate. Rather, it's the wonderful approaches that somehow make the old become new and exciting.

Listening to some tracks ("Don't Let Go," "Photograph," "Islands in the Sun") is akin to feeling fine—instead of proceeding to whine—at the sight of a drizzle in the middle of an otherwise fine, cloudless morning.

Surprising as it may seem, we smiled like an imp when, a few late nights ago, the sound of "Hash Pipe" came wafting in from our neighbor's radio. Weezer has indeed been transformed into a favorite band. Must not allow it to just whiz by!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Charles Kuralt honors 'little' people who make a big difference

By Noelani Torre

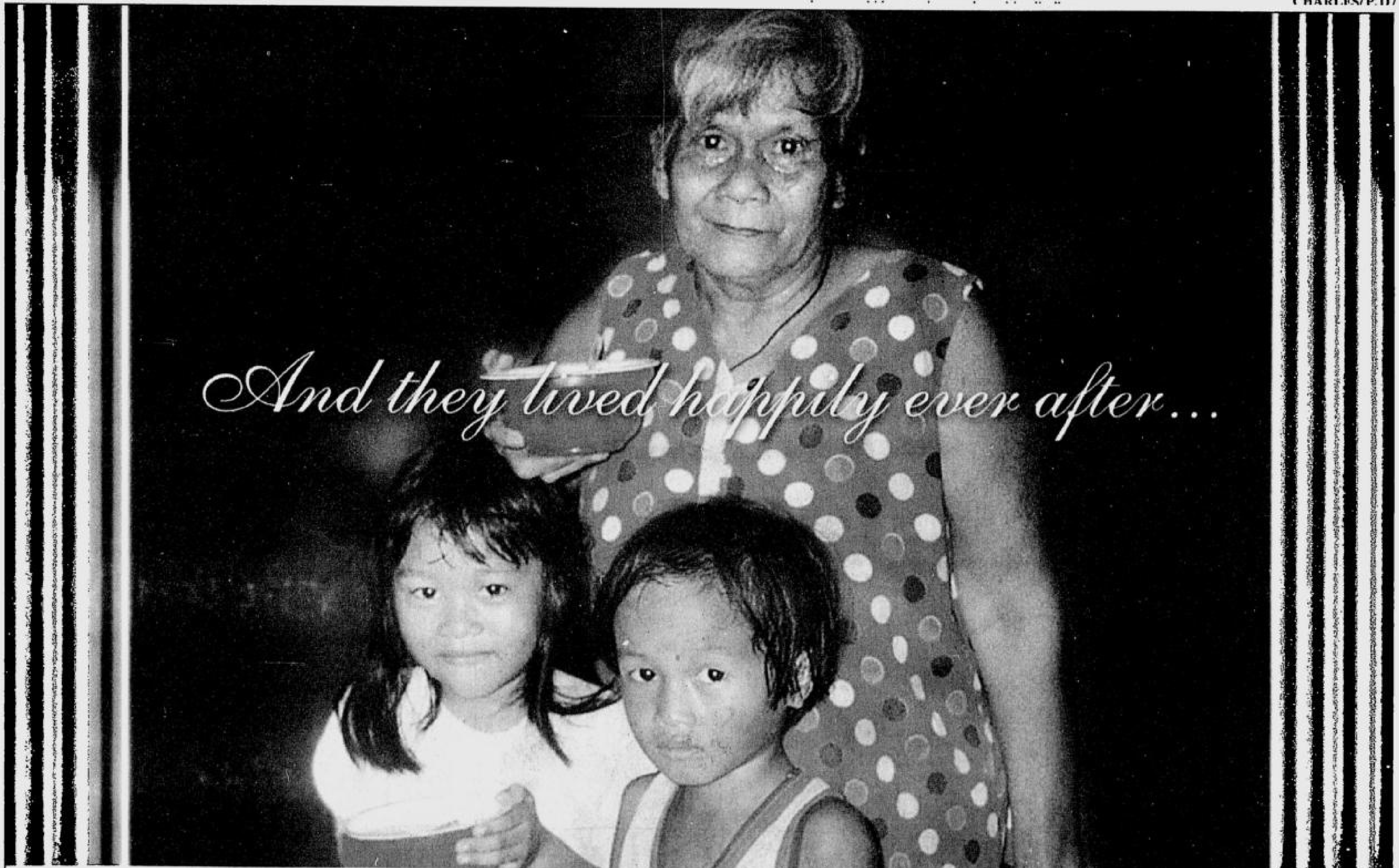
(Conclusion)

"YOU'VE got to drink a hundred cups to qualify for the honor of getting your own cup in Arrol's Drugstore in Areola, Illinois," said local Fanine King. "Then

Drink five gallons of coffee just to have your name painted on a cup? You might think it's too great an effort, but Areola is a small town and those cups are more than just holders of coffee.

"When you die or leave town," writes Charles, "they take your cup down from the rack . . . They are

CHARLES/P. D7


And they lived happily ever after...

Here's a happy ending from Louie's THX.

Since 1994, Louie's THX Cinema has been a pioneer in raising the standards of movie exhibition in the Philippines. With the theater as its main funding arm, the Laurel-Rufino-Prieto (LRP) Foundation has succeeded in raising funds to support its various noteworthy charities including:

- Providing education for the underprivileged through the Sisters of Mary (Girls Town & Boys Town) and the Mother Rosa Foundation (Assumpta Technical School)
- Promoting healthcare for the needy (Ospital ng Makati)
- Promoting excellence in Film (Pelikula : A Journal of Philippine Cinema)

With its donation fund in place, the Foundation has decided to focus primarily on its beneficiaries. **And so August 31, 2001 will see the final curtain call of the most pioneering and memorable movie theater in the country, Louie's THX Cinema.**

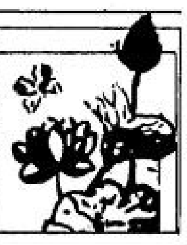
On behalf of the beneficiaries of the LRP Foundation, we would like to thank all our members and friends for the support given us through the years. With your help, Louie's THX Cinema has changed not just the way we watch movies, but the lives of those around us.

COME SEE OUR FAREWELL PERFORMANCES! Aug. 1, 2001 - Kiss of the Dragon • Aug. 8, 2001 - Bridget Jones' Diary • Aug. 15, 2001 - Planet of the Apes • Aug. 22, 2001 - Shrek

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX LRP

Apple cider vinegar for health and beauty

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

APPLE cider vinegar is one amazing product you should never run out of. I'm not simply recommending it for kitchen use but for medicinal and beauty care purposes as well. It is so useful that Tanja Hirschsteiner, author of Home Remedies from A-Z, calls it "a fountain of youth offering health and beauty."

Benefits

The benefits may be attributed to the overall combination of healing ingredients which benefit the body. The vinegar contains helpful minerals and elements such as calcium, fluoride, magnesium, sodium, phosphorus, silicon and potassium.

The last element works wonders on the heart muscles. Pectin in the vinegar is known also for its cholesterol-lowering quality. In addition, apple cider vinegar is antibacterial. It kills harmful bacteria in the intestines while it aids the natural bacteria needed for digestion.

Although it tastes sour, apple cider vinegar can destroy germs in the respiratory tract and reduce mucus.

How do we use this wonderful product? Hirschsteiner gives some basic recipes:

For drinking: Apple cider vinegar and honey are two home remedies that work well together. Add two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar and one tablespoon of honey to one glass of water and stir well. Drink in small sips. With an apple cider vinegar cure, which should last for about six weeks, drink two to three glasses of the mixture everyday.

For inhaling: Pour a half-pint of apple cider vinegar into a bowl and add about half a quart of hot water. Lean over the bowl and drape a hand towel like a tent over your head and the bowl. Inhale the rising steam for five to ten minutes.

Affected parts

For washing: Use about one part vinegar to two parts of water. Dip a terry cloth in the solution and apply on affected parts.

For wraps: Prepare a mixture of 20 tablespoons of pure apple cider vinegar and a quart of cold water. Use a towel for the wrap and soak it in the liquid.

Here are various ailments that may be alleviated by using apple cider vinegar.

1. Immune deficiency—Take an apple cider vinegar cure (use the drink recipe), along with regular washings with apple cider vinegar.

2. Chronic headaches—Do an apple cider vinegar cure and apply cold compresses to the forehead.

3. Cardiovascular problems—Do an apple cider vinegar cure, plus regular washings and, in the morning, apply cold wraps to your calves with apple cider vinegar.

4. Urinary bladder infection—Drinking lots of fluids is the important step. Drink three quarts of fluids daily to flush out harmful bacteria. Alternate between a cup of herbal bladder tea and a glass of apple cider vinegar honey drink.

5. Bronchitis, coughs, colds—Inhale twice daily with apple cider vinegar. In addition, drink three glasses of apple cider vinegar honey drink a day.

Extended period

6. Joint pains, rheumatoid conditions—Drink two glasses of apple cider vinegar and honey everyday for an extended period. Increase the amount for acute conditions.

7. Bruises—Apply a cold wrap of cider vinegar immediately to reduce the swelling.

8. Menstrual pain—Drink at least one glass of apple cider vinegar plus honey regularly.

9. Hemorrhoids—Take regular sitz baths with lukewarm water and apple cider vinegar. For acute symptoms, you can apply a piece of cotton saturated with apple cider vinegar to reduce swelling and reduce pain.

10. Abdominal Gas, Nausea—Drink a glass of apple cider vinegar and honey before each meal.

11. Diarrhea—Drink a mixture of two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar and a glass of mineral water several times a day.

Next week: beauty tips in using apple cider vinegar.

Charles . . .

(From page D6)

a town register, and a history, and a confirmation that life goes on in a small American town."

The stories in this book are not just touching, they are amusing, as well. Like this compilation that Charles made of hamburger names across America:

"We have munched Bridgeburgers in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, and Cablecarburgers hard by the Golden Gate, Dixieburgers in the sunny South and Yankee Doodle Dandyburgers in the North . . .We've had Kingburgers, Queenburgers, Miniburgers, Maxiburgers, Tunaburgers, Smithfieldburgers, Baconburgers, Wineburgers, Heavenly Burgers, and Yumburgers. Yum, yum!"

That's America for you, one thousand and one names for a piece of beef between two pieces of bread.

Turkey trot

Another amusing story is that of the turkey trot in Cuero, Texas. Turkeys "are numerous on the broad range around Cuero, Texas, and the community must celebrate what it has . . . It is difficult to describe how dumb turkeys really are.

"Suffice it to say that the organizers of the Cuero turkey trot dread rain on parade day, because of the tendency of turkeys to tilt their heads back to drink, and then to forget to tilt them forward again, thus drowning right there on Main Street." Bird brains, indeed!

But of course, it is the touching story that we remember most. Like the story of nine children from Prairie, Mississippi who grew up and moved away from cotton fields and poverty but who, on one Thanksgiving weekend, are reunited once more under the roof where they were all children.

It's their parents' 50th wedding anniversary and they, all nine college graduates, have come home. Charles feelingly recounts how the family worked to pursue their dreams and how, triumphant, they dissolve in tears before each other.

Tree

The last story in this book is about a tree. "The tree is a juniper, and it grows utterly alone, not another tree for miles." Every year, on Christmas Day, this tree is transformed: It becomes a Christmas tree! Ornaments are hung on its branches by anonymous whimsical inhabitants of nearby towns and passing motorists.

"The tree violates the law of man and nature." Charles writes. "It is too close to the highway for man, and not far enough away for nature. The tree pays no attention. It is where it is. It survives."

This is a deep book. Even after we'd already read all of the stories, we felt as if we hadn't really plumbed the depths yet. This is the kind of book that you keep on going back to, and it will continually surprise you everytime you turn the page.

It's a shame that Charles Kuralt died too soon (he was only 62) but it is highly satisfying to think that at least some of the people he wrote about live on, making their individual small differences in their small towns.

Fil-Am comic Rob Schneider is 'The Animal'

ON Columbia Pictures' new comedy "The Animal," as he did on the smash hit "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," Fil-American comic Rob Schneider balances his roles as the co-writer and star of the film with flying and hilarious colors.

Separate

"When I'm writing the movie, I never think about performing in it because it's two separate art forms," he explains. "Then you get out there, and it's like, 'What? I'm getting strangled by an orangutan?'"

"The Animal" revolves around lowly file clerk Marvin Mange (Schneider), who doesn't have the athletic prowess it takes to complete police training school and fulfill his lifelong dream to be a cop.

But his luck changes when he's critically injured in a car accident and an eccentric doctor secretly uses animal organs to perform a trans-species-ectomy to rebuild him.

Energized by his new parts, Marvin leaves his weakness behind and achieves instant fame as a supercop. Marvin enjoys his newfound popularity in the department as well as the attention of his new girlfriend, Rianna (Colleen Haskell of "Survivor"), until his animal instincts start taking over his body at all the wrong times. Marvin struggles to suppress his animal urges in a series of hilarious situations.

Schneider says he loved playing a character that was part-animal. "As an actor it's so much more fun to play a guy trying *not* to be an animal than a guy playing an animal," he points out.

Personal grooming

As Marvin Mange in his dog-like form, Schneider had to do some personal grooming which, in the canine world, involved lifting a leg. Although Schneider had to learn to climb trees like a monkey, swim like a dolphin and run like a cheetah, nothing proved more physically challenging than having to lick himself like a dog.

A prosthetic leg was made, but Rob showed off his flexibility and his yoga training by lifting his own leg high enough for the shot. He howled in pain after being forced to keep his appendage airborne for long periods of time; he was thrilled to have a back-up.

Animal trainer Steve Berens says that while he coached Schneider in a few areas, the actor/comedian was a natural animal and was happy to dive in . . . literally. He had his face shoved into an aquarium, as his character slurps up a catfish, and took the plunge as a dolphin gulping more than a few mouthfuls of water.

For the dolphin stunt, Schneider was strapped into a harness over a multi-level track built under the surface of the water. Making the motions of the swimming mammal, he held his breath as he was dragged underwater, surfacing, still in character.

Exciting

"I want people to know that it was really me doing it. It was exciting," says Schneider. "You have to be pretty excited about a movie like this so you can get through it. You're thinking, 'It's two o'clock in the morning and we're still shooting and it's freezing and I'm in 50-degree water and having to go underneath it and I'm getting ice cream headaches.'"

"Everybody went a little animal on this movie," says Schneider, "including me. It's nutty, but I guess no matter what you are—how much animal you are, or how little animal you are—you accept each other. There's a lot of love in this movie. I want people to feel good watching it and have a good time."

SCHNEIDER. Loved playing a character that was part-animal.

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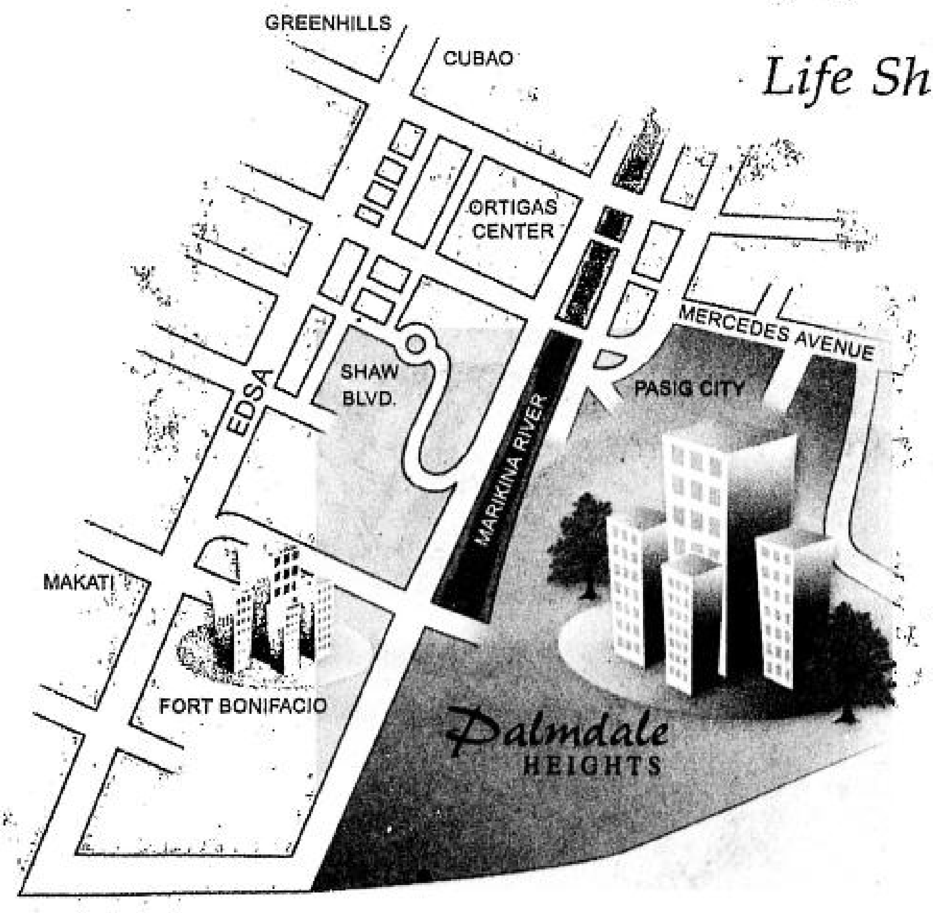

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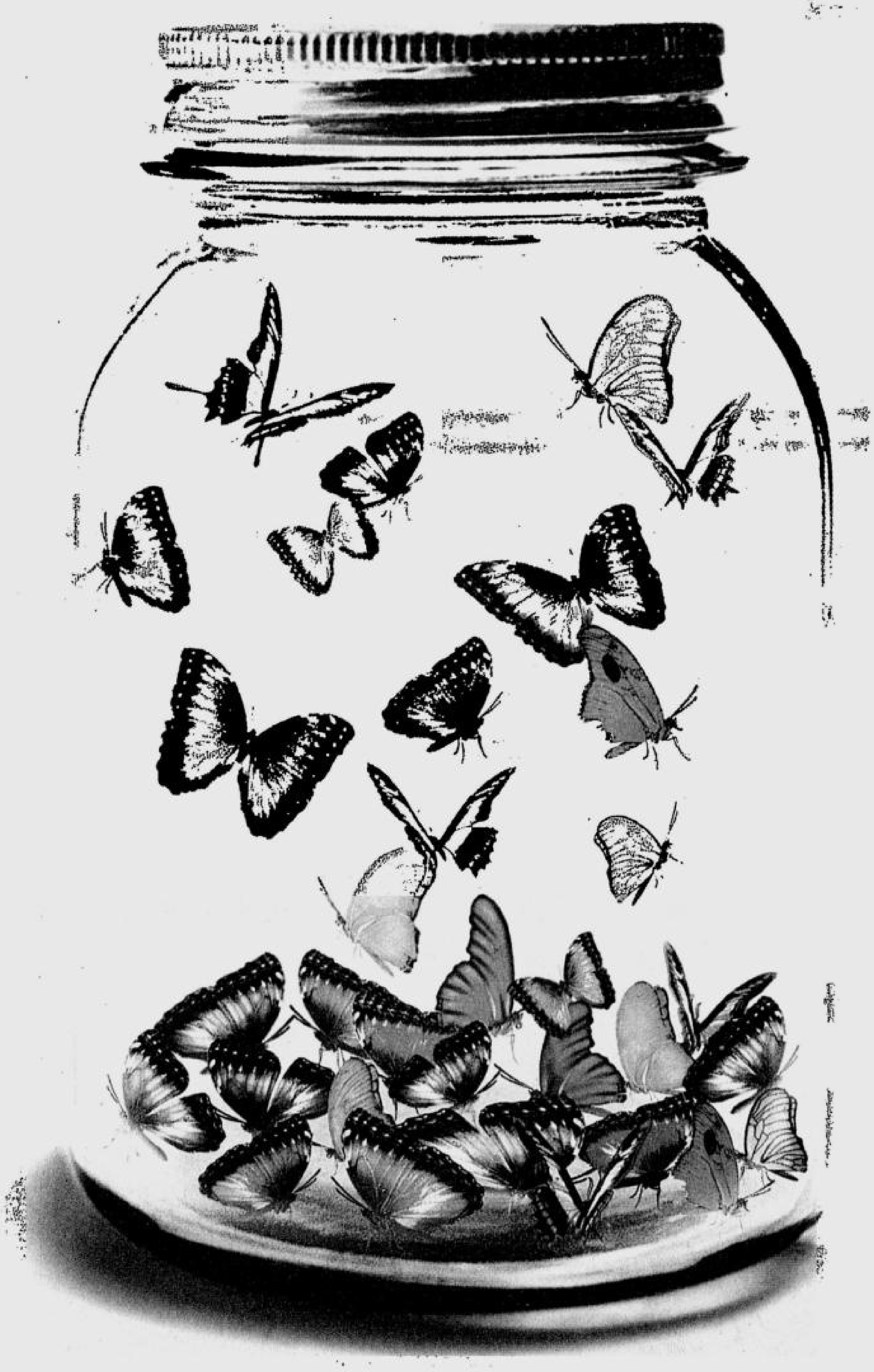

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Treat of the Week

Waldorf Salad

2/3 cup mayonnaise
1 170g can NESTLÉ CREAM
pinch of salt
1 tbsp. sugar
1 cup unpeeled, halved and seeded grapes
3 pcs. apples, cut to 1/2" wedges
1 cup walnuts, coarsely broken
2 stalks celery, cut to thin diagonal slices

Combine mayonnaise, NESTLÉ CREAM, salt and sugar in a bowl. Toss in fruits, walnuts and celery. Chill before serving.
Servings: 6

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Crazy road to stardom for Jay Hernandez

BY LOUIS B. HOBSON

HOLLYWOOD—Jay Hernandez is the first to admit one crazy encounter led to a beautiful career move.

Hernandez had never even been in a school play and hadn't even considered acting as a career option yet he's starring opposite Kirsten Dunst in the romantic drama "crazy/ beautiful."

Elevator

"My parents and I were in this elevator in Hollywood. The door was just closing when this guy squeezed in. We rode for a couple of floors together when he asked if I'd ever considered modelling or acting," recalls Hernandez.

"He gave me his card and asked me to contact him if I wanted to give either career a try."

Hernandez pocketed the card, never giving the man's offer a second thought.

"My mom finally pushed me to phone the guy and see what it was all about."

Hernandez called Howard Tyner, who turned out to be a marketing director who'd worked with The New Kids on the Block.

"Howard said he was looking for some new talent to represent. He said he didn't want any money up front.

"We checked him out and he was legitimate so I signed on with him. He immediately signed me up for acting lessons and within a month he got me an agent."

CRAZY/p.E3

HERNANDEZ. Beautiful career move.

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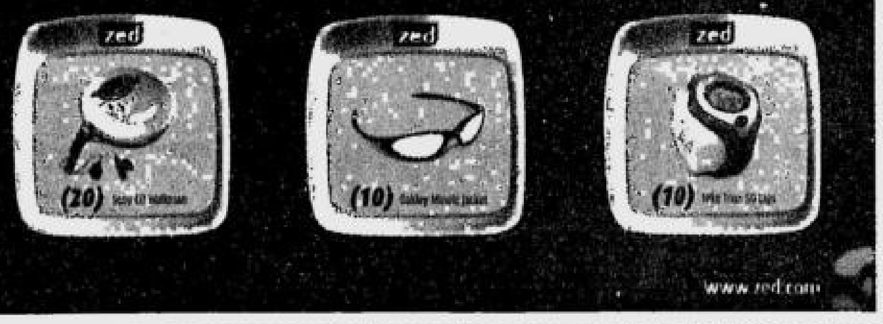
Promo until October 7, 2001.



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COMPLETE MECHANICS:

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6. All raffle draws will take place at 10:00 a.m., at the Sonera zed Office, 27th Floor, Tower II, Enterprise Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The draw schedule and the promotion period covered are as follows:

	Promo Period	Draw Date
Week 1	July 29 - August 5, 2001	August 6, 2001
Week 2	August 6 - 12, 2001	August 13, 2001
Week 3	August 13 - 19, 2001	August 20, 2001
Week 4	August 20 - 26, 2001	August 27, 2001
Week 5/ 1st Monthly	August 27 - September 2, 2001	September 3, 2001
Week 6	September 3 - 9, 2001	September 10, 2001
Week 7	September 10 - 16, 2001	September 17, 2001
Week 8	September 17 - 23, 2001	September 24, 2001
Week 9	September 24 - 30, 2001	October 1, 2001
Week 10/ 2nd Monthly	October 1 - 7, 2001	October 8, 2001

Prizes at stake are as follows:

For the 10 Weekly Draws:	For the 2 Monthly Grand Draws
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Sony VX Series Mini Component	(2) Piaggio Vespa PX 150
Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 29" (73.66 cms) KV-XA29M90	Sony Cybershot DSC-F505V
Sony Cybershot DSC-F505V	Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9
Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9	Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 34" (86.36 cms) w/ DVD Home Theater System (KV-ES34M80 & DAV-S300)
Gameboy Advance	
Nike Triax 50 Laps	
Oakley Penny	
Oakley Minute Jacket	

7. Taxes for all prizes will be shouldered by Sonera zed.
8. A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value and another entry will be generated in its place.
9. All winners of the weekly and grand draw will be informed initially via a text message and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners have until 60 days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Sonera zed with prior approval from DTI.
10. To claim your prize, please bring your cellular phone with the congratulatory text message, your letter of notification, and a valid ID to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, 10th Floor, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For Vis-Min provincial winners, prizes will be shipped to them and winners will be informed on details of how to claim their prize.
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Watch out for the next weekly draw on August 13, 2001.

Pops Fernandez tries to gain points as an actress

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR a couple of years now, singer Pops Fernandez has been trying to gain points as an actress, by way of a dramatic film every now and then. This month, Pops changes tack by opting to show her range as an actress in a limited anthology drama-comedy TV series, "Larawan," 10:15 p.m. every Wednesday on Channel 7.

Helpful context

We caught Pops' first "Larawan" outing last Aug. 1 and found that she had opted to play it safe with a relatively light story that situated her character's conflict within the helpful context of the shared joys and pains of her *barkada*.

This effectively diffused viewers' attention and didn't weigh Pops down with the onus of "carrying" the episode all by her lonesome. On hand to bear part of the thespic burden were Bing Loyzaga, Jaya and Princess Punzalan.

In their *barkada*, Pops was the self-assured one who had snagged a great catch for her groom. Bing was the flirt who went from one man to another, equating quantity with quality. Princess was the perfect wife and mother who was left in the lurch by her husband, who ran off with the family driver (gasp!). And Jaya was the politician's wife and socialite who was a closet lesbian (gasp! gasp!)

Comeuppance

Well, Pops got *her* comeuppance early in the story, when her fiance left her to enter the seminary. Instead of being happy that God had won out, Pops turned into a man-hater. Even when her beau came back to her, begging for another chance at love and marriage, she couldn't get over his leaving her high and dry at the altar.

Eventually, Pops was also wooed by a very eligible doctor (Rustom Padilla), but she found herself not being able to trust him, either. After all, he was a man, wasn't he? And men were generically faithless. Of course, the dishy doctor did his best to convince her otherwise, but some old hurts are hard to heal.

Trendy

The episode was occasionally diverting and thematically on-target, but after a while, we ceased to empathize with its characters and their woes, because they were clearly superficial, trendy and pulled off for effect.

Pops looked a little too old for her character. Bing and Princess' performances were focused, but Jaya was miscast as the socialite. For his part, Rustom was not at all believable as a doctor. When will TV-film actors realize that, if they want viewers to believe in their portrayals, they have to suit their characters, and not the other way around?

Flighty

As for the succeeding episodes in Pops' limited anthology series, let's hope that the people in front of and behind the cameras of "Larawan" stop acting and working in such a flighty, fanciful and self-absorbed manner, and give us stories and characters that we can really get interested and believe in.

So, does Pops Fernandez have it in her to become a really good actress? After watching her initial "Larawan" outing, we must (temporarily?) conclude: Not yet.

FERNANDEZ. Playing it safe.

At the movies with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

By Edmund L. Sicam

(Conclusion)

THE PROJECTOR broke down several times but the President didn't show any signs of impatience while waiting for the projectionist to fix his equipment. TV host German Moreno, who had arrived earlier, took the opportunity to push for the renovation of the Metropolitan Theater. GMA remarked that the problem with the Met was that provisions were not made for the operating expenses of the theater. So since the venue was not earning, it continued to incur deficits that Ms Conching Sunico tried to cover until she too ran out of funds for the Met.

Met problem

The President asked an aide to get Manila Mayor Lito Atienza on the cell phone. In a few minutes, the mayor was on the line and the President talked to him about the Met problem. After the phone call, she told Kuya Germs that the City of Manila was willing to operate the theater if someone else could finance the renovation cost, which by his estimate could reach P40 million.

GMA started to figure out where that amount could come from and commented that P40 million could cover so many low cost housing projects. Then she said the National Commission on Culture and the Arts may be the proper agency to provide the funds since it had a huge endowment, something like P900 million. Just on annual interest alone, the NCCA could easily cover the necessary amount.

NCCA endowment

Next, she had Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena on the line to find out about the NCCA endowment and the PMS head confirmed that the NCCA indeed had the funds mentioned by the President. That made Kuya Germs very happy.

ARROYO. Fast action on piracy.

When the screening was over, she stood up to shake hands with the cast and production staff of the movie, who had started to crowd behind our seats as the movie was being shown. She then prepared to leave to watch the play at UP but decided to sit down for a few minutes with industry leaders headed by Viva's Vic Del Rosario to start a dialogue on piracy.

She asked the head of the Videogram Regulatory Board, retired general Manuel B. Mariano to join the group. After 10 minutes, she said she had to go but would be back after the play to continue the dialogue.

After the President left, dinner was served during which members of the movie and recording industry started to arrive. We spotted Star Movies' Malou Santos, singer Gary Valenciano and his wife Angeli, Nonoy Zuñiga, producer Ramon Salvador, OctoArts' Orly Ilacad, Rachel Alejandro and talent manager Girlie Rodis, Joel Torre, Angelu de Leon, director Laurice Guillen and many others.

Piracy

The group agreed that piracy was one of the reasons the movie industry was suffering. General Mariano explained that his agency had already confiscated some P30 million worth of VCDs so they have been quite active in going after pirates. The problem is that with modern equipment, the copies could easily be replaced.

The General even complained that one of his men spent time in jail because he wouldn't release the duplicating machine the VRB confiscated during a raid. The pirates had obtained a court order to recover the P 80 million machine.

He admitted that his office only had 66 people, too small to monitor the activity of the pirates. That's why he requested for a P1 million intelligence fund only to be told that the money was not available. Someone mentioned that the VRB should use media more to inform the public about its accomplishments.

There were suggestions to curb piracy, such as penalizing not just the seller but the buyer, a reward system so that those who have information about the pirates will be emboldened to turn them in, coordinating with the Metro Manila mayors to make enforcement more effective etc. Del Rosario even pledged the help of his stars to generate funds for the reward.

Fund-raising concert

He said Regine Velasquez had already agreed to perform for free at a concert to raise money for the anti-piracy campaign.

Anthony Pangilinan suggested that a multi-sectoral team be formed to come up with a strategy. There were many volunteers and Mikey Arroyo suggested that the next meeting be held in Malacañang to underscore the urgency of the matter.

When President Arroyo arrived later, most of the group had left but the key people in the industry were still there. Vic del Rosario updated the President on what had transpired in her absence. She immediately asked an aide to get in touch with the PNP general in charge of Metro Manila. She was starting to tell him about the drive against pirates when he said his men were already scheduled to conduct raids that week. (This week, I read in the papers and saw on the newscasts that raids were indeed conducted.)

Amusement taxes

The matter of amusement taxes then came up. The President had promised the industry a reduction of 50 % but several mayors were still hesitant to support the move. GMA called Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo to persuade him to grant the reduction. He agreed. She also had Parañaque mayor Joey Marquez called but he was abroad. Movie producers explained that Metro Manila theaters accounted for 70% of their business so a reduction in the taxes in the area would mean substantial savings for them.

On General Mariano's problem with intelligence funds, the President called up Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin to allot the needed P1 million.

The industry leaders seemed satisfied at how fast the President moved on their concerns. In return, the industry pledged assistance in GMA's drive to bring the government closer to the poor sectors of society.

'Shrek' premiere, Freestyle show in Joey's August line-up

JOEY@.92.3 FM is back to warm up your rainy nights with another exciting line-up of must-see films and shows this August.

Discover a whole new planet as Joey together with Warner Bros. Pictures, Shell Citibank-Gold, Decolgen, Mossimo, Cinnzeo, and FHM Magazine premiere Tim Burton's "Planet of the Apes" on Aug. 14 (Tuesday), 7:30 p.m. at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV.

Much-awaited film

Step into a whole new world as Joey simulates the set of this much-awaited film. Mark Wahlberg plays the pilot who finds himself in the midst of nature's own prehistoric version of human beings, a place where they are only second-class citizens.

On Aug. 20, it's going to be a fun family affair with the premiere of United International Pictures' "Shrek," at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV at 7 p.m. With the help of Globe Gentext, Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo, Lactum and Del Monte 202, Joey treats everyone to lots of food and games for this blockbuster event.

Bring the kids along and watch this hilarious fairy tale set in a strange, colorful land populated by storybook characters. Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz star in this reinvention of the fairy tale adventure.

Exhibit

Then Steven Spielberg's "A.I.—Artificial Intelligence" from Warner Bros. Pictures conquers Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV on Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Watch out for an exhibit of various forms of artificial intelligence created by our very own talents. Conceptualized by the late film genius Stanley Kubrick, this movie features the talents of Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law, Sam Robards and William Hurt.

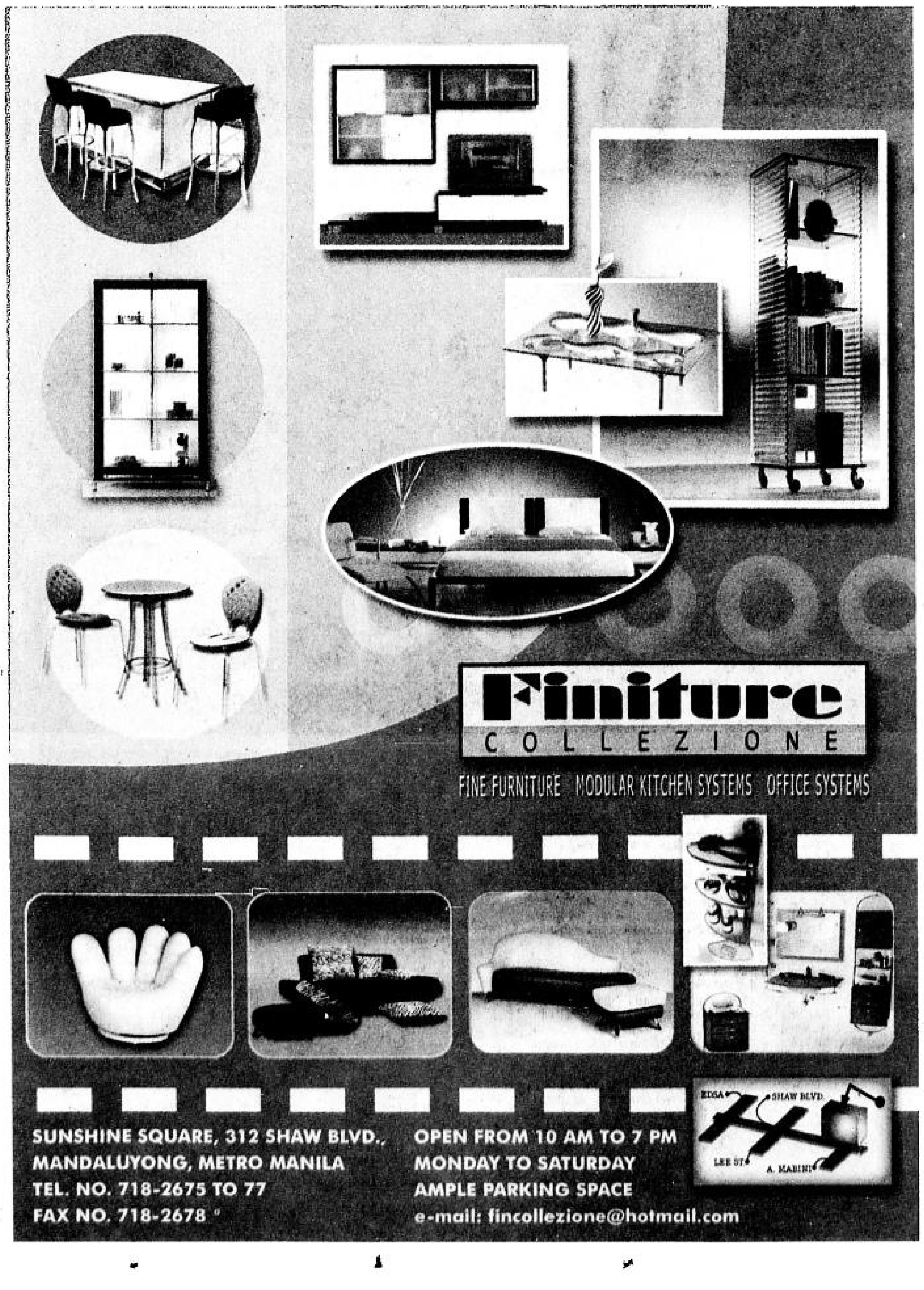
"SHREK." Hilarious fairy tale.

Monday nights come alive as "Joey's Jiggy Nights" razes Strumm's El Pueblo this month (Aug. 13, 20, 27). Judith Banal and A'Petite headline this dancing gig sponsored by Nissan Sentra Exalta, Sensodyne, Zantac, and Globe Gentext.

Two-night engagement

Then prepare for a definite music high as the country's hottest band, Freestyle, teams up with the metro's hottest high-end FM station in storming Hard Rock Cafe on Aug. 15 and 29 at 9 p.m. Joey's Bar Tour Series brings the chart-topping hits of Freestyle in this exciting two-night engagement.

After that rousing music fix, chill out with relaxing music from the acoustic duo of Noel Quejano and Rodel Vidal in Joey's "Breakin' for Brew" at Cravings Cafe. The cool strains start playing at Cravings Robinsons Galleria on Aug. 24, then at Cravings Greenbelt on Aug. 31 at 6 p.m.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Mandy Navasero

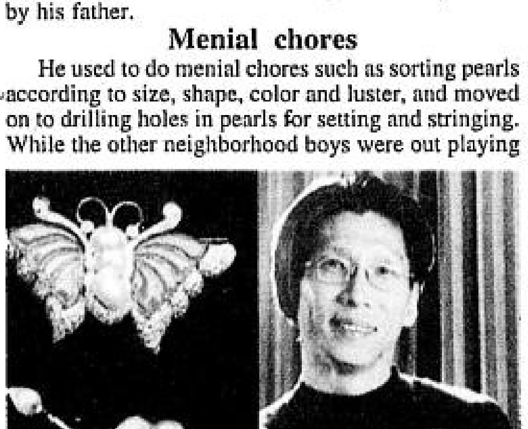
FAI Co is into pearl jewelry. Just recently, he won for the third time in the Third International South Sea Pearl Design Competition in Hong Kong.

His entry in the pendant category, "Zebra Lane," displays the splendor of the carabao horn and mother of pearl stripes which he is wearing in the photo in this space. The polished form is set at the tips by a cluster of diamonds in white gold frames.

He graduated as an architect from the University of Santo Tomas and dreamed of designing beautiful homes and buildings, but he ended in the gem industry started by his father.

Menial chores

He used to do menial chores such as sorting pearls according to size, shape, color and luster, and moved on to drilling holes in pearls for setting and stringing. While the other neighborhood boys were out playing children's games, Fai was working with gems.


CO. Hardworking gemologist.

Fai starts a hectic day with a game of tennis before going to the office. He works on the computer and personally looks over the manufacturing side. He also checks on whether a jewelry piece is executed as designed.

He has three sons and has introduced them to the business, the way his dad did. The eldest, Harold, is trained in management, Ivan, the second, seems to be following his footsteps in terms of designing, while Stefan, the youngest, provides the "comic relief."

Award-winning pieces

Recently, Fai showcased his designs at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on the occasion of Hoseki Jewelry Art's second anniversary. Award-winning pieces including the "Twister" (Silver Award for ear ring, 1997), "Three in Harmony" (Silver Award for ring, 1999) and "Zebra Lane" (Silver Award for pendant, 2001) all got raves from visitors.

He believes in the creativity and craftsmanship of Filipinos that sets them apart from their foreign counterparts. His dream is emblazoned in the company motto: "World-class South Sea Pearls, World-class design"!

AM/FM

The trouble with cellphones

By Rito P. Asilo

LISTENING to current affairs programs these days is not a particularly uplifting and inspiring experience. If you think about it, it has been like this for sometime.

From the time we tuned in to dzAR's "Gabay ng Bayan, Kilos Kabayan" (AM, 1026 kHz) at around 7:30 p.m., to Kuya Celso Dionisio's opinion-format show on Radyo Aguila 1072 kHz around 10 p.m., until we listened to Angelique Lazo's "Magandang Umaga, Bayan" news show on dzAR the following morning, all we heard about was the alleged money-laundering scheme of Lacson and the Estradas.

Deja vu

The listener has been besieged with a jaw-dropping amount characterized by a basketful of zeroes, in dollars yet, stashed and deposited off-shore. You feel a sense of déjà vu, that we have heard this story before, not just once but many times over.

What was even more exasperating was when callers expressed their support for the alleged wrongdo

THE TROUBLE/p.E3

LAZO. Failure of technology.

Jacky Woo stars in Fil-Japanese film

By Edmund L. Sicam

WOO. "Dancing Aikido Master."

"DUDURUGIN Ko Pati Buto Mo"sounds like your typical Filipino action movie. It is actually a co-production between a Japanese company, Forward Group and a local outfit, True Colors. The star of the movie is Jacky Woo, known in Japan as the "Dancing Aikido Master." The film incorporates the traditional moves of aikido but makes it more accessible to the average moviegoer through choreographed moves.

Cebu location

Jacky also directed the film, which was shot mostly in Cebu. Co-director was Jerry Tirazona, who's also known for megging action flicks. Other locals in the film are actors John Regala, Aya Medel, Allona Amor, Franco Guerrero, Brando Legaspi and Conrad Poe while their Japanese co-stars, aside from Jacky, are Lou Oshiba, Yasuhisa Shioda and Youichi Akasaka.

One obstacle the local producers worried about was the fact that Jacky spoke very little English. Luckily, one of the members of the local crew could speak Nippongo and was able to relay Tirazona's instructions to Jacky. Sometimes, this wasn't even necessary as Tirazona resorted to the universally-understood sign language.

At the presscon for the movie, however, a female interpreter was around to translate Jacky's answers to our questions. We found out that Jacky Woo is actually Yoshiyuki Ohira in real life. He owns several businesses in Japan that are engaged in the manufacture and sale of cosmetic equipment, music, fashion, garments and entertainment.

Composer

Aside from producing and directing films, the businessman is also a composer in his own right, having written the theme song for "Mabushisugite" which won a nomination in the Japan Verse Writing Contest. The theme song for the movie "Dudurugin," which he wrote, is now a big hit in Japan. He sang a few bars from the song during the press dinner.

"Dudurugin" is the sequel to "Total Aikido" which was shown earlier this year. It was the first movie where Jacky was in front of the camera. After his second movie here, he intends to make more films outside of his native country. He said he was considering doing more co-productions in the Philippines.

Sluggish market

When asked whether he would like to try his luck in Hollywood, he says the Asian market is just as interesting and challenging. He admitted that the movie industry in Japan is sluggish, so he's looking for opportunities in the international market.

During the dinner, the interpreter was trying to communicate Jacky's desire to strengthen Phil-Japanese relationship. However, he seemed dissatisfied with the translation and kept saying something about being concerned about what happened between the two countries in World War II.

In person, Jacky doesn't look like a martial arts expert and looks more like a tourist. We are informed, however, that he's really quite good at aikido, having started when he was only five years old, and packs a mean punch.

Jacky is impressed by the professionalism of his fellow actors and the warmth and hospitality of the Filipinos he met in Cebu. Talking about Filipinas, he says he is attracted to the eyes and the smile of the Pinay. He loves the beach so he had a great time in Cebu's Tambuli Beach Resort.

When we asked if he would answer personal questions, he agreed. However, when we asked if he was married, his answer was "What do you think?"—so that was it for personal questions!

What's your favorite cable TV channel?

By Noelani Torre

EVER since the advent of cable television in this country during the '90s, the fight for the remote control has reached new heights of intensity. She who holds the remote also holds great power—the power of choice. And with cable, you certainly have a lot of choices.

Viewing options

With so many viewing options to choose from, though, it is sometimes difficult to make up your mind, so you spend most of your time surfing through the various channels. However, we're pretty sure that folks still tend to gravitate towards a few preferred spots.

We asked some people what their favorite cable TV channel is. Many of them declared that they didn't have a single favorite, but a lot. "I don't like to be restricted," one respondent said.

Still, there were those who disagreed, saying that most of the time, it takes only one cable channel to satisfy their video cravings. Not surprisingly, not one of them picked the same channel. It just goes to show how different tastes can be. Some mentioned the same reasons for their choices, though, like program variety. Here are their picks:

"My favorite is CNN. We all know that they come up with very professional and high quality-content reports which they gather from all over the world—so we don't get stuck with one set of reporters who have one reporting style and one point of view. They give us broad insights into the day's many happenings.

Unique

"It's unique because it serves as a global basis of comparison on how top stories and news reports are presented. But the important thing is that not all viewers realize the fact that what CNN doesn't broadcast is important, too."—*Mayumi Topacio Verona, Diliman, Q.C.*

"MTV, definitely. I think it's a pseudo-representation of contemporary culture but it nevertheless embodies what present minds are thinking about and, like great art, it mirrors society. It doesn't just entertain, it also relays the thoughts of the present generation.

"Creatively, too, I might add. Every music video that comes out can be considered modern-day masterpieces—modern Mona Lisas, etc. Although old-fashioned minds cannot grasp this concept because presumably they're stuck in their moment, just as we are stuck in ours.

"Twenty years from now I bet future generations would think that our MTV is corny, too. Each generation just has its own fad, and MTV is ours."—*Maybeline Mateo, Zamboanga City*

"I prefer the Lifestyle Network. They have a wide variety of shows to choose from. They're actually a compilation of different networks - Food, HGTV, FitTV, InStyle. You get different stuff for the whole day, not like other channels that only have one 'theme.' This is the channel for people with different interests, and I also like it because it caters to what women want."—*Tina Mariñas, Quezon City*

X-factor

"AXN. Because they show lots of animé—Japanese cartoons with a lot of action. Animé fascinates me—the characters and the plots. It has this x-factor that you won't find in other productions, I can't really explain it.

"It's also a culture thing, I guess. Like *hentai*, for example, which AXN shows late at night. Everyone thinks that they're pornographic cartoons but we wouldn't always interpret it that way because, in their culture, two-piece bathing suits are already considered *hentai* but for us it wouldn't mean much.

"Although AXN features violence, I think you're still the one who decides what effect it will have on you. Violence fascinates me, but I don't go around killing people. Action is just exhilarating to watch."—*Kodel John Baylon, Kalibo, Aklan*

"It's a Japanese channel (sorry, I forgot the name) that showcases a variety of shows and movies. There are English, Japanese, and French programs, shows, and films. One of the reasons why I watch it is because it mostly features good English programs and movies.

"The movies the channel releases range from shallow comedies, feel good flicks, romances, action, horror—to the deep, thought-provoking ones, and more. They show really recent movies as well as old ones.

Recent episodes

"They also show Disney animated shows, classics, and hard-to-find films. The channel airs recent episodes of English programs such as 'Friends,' 'Felicity,' and 'Dawson's Creek,' as well as cartoons like 'South Park' and Japanese animé.

"The channel, aside from showing programs and films, also shows sports coverage of tennis tournaments and soccer games. It's a great channel because it provides the viewers with a variety of good shows, it caters to their different states of mind, and definitely breaks the monotony on other cable channels.

"One frustrating thing, however, is that they sometimes dub good English movies in Japanese, just when you thought it was a great catch to watch! But, hey, it just shows the variety that the channel offers, and that little thing wouldn't make me change my opinion."—*Cristina Barretto, Angono, Rizal*

"ESPN Sports! Everyone's into sports of some kind and this channel even shows PBA games sometimes. They have a clear coverage and they're very organized. They don't have that many commercials that don't have anything to do with the show itself. You know, those annoying ones that you still have to watch because you don't know when the show is going to come back on.

"They also sponsor extreme games. In fact, they were among the first to do this, back when no one was paying much attention to that sort of thing yet. I just like sports, and this is the channel with the best sports coverage."—*David Mateo, Surigao del Sur*

The trouble . . .

(From page E2)

ers. "*Ginawa na nila ito kay* Marcos, *ngayon naman kay* Erap," bewailed a caller. We almost fell to the floor! Hello? Either he was living in a parallel universe where Hitler is the messiah, or he was just plain delusional! And he had the temerity to end his speech with the line, "The truth will set us free!"

It was a good thing the program hosts, from the efficient duo of Style and Len to Angelique, had a good head over their shoulders, allowing public opinion but always cautioning people to watch their language on-air. "*Walang insultuhan,*" Kuya Celso warned.

We could only shrug our shoulders when a reporter disclosed a series of complaints, five of them, on the theft of Meralco meters in the Sta. Cruz area. Signs of the times? What would these robbers filch for an encore—water pipelines? Kitchen sinks? Fluorescent lamps? Toilet bowls?

Irritating

It was also irritating to hear the hissing and buzzing of cell phones while these shows were being aired.

When we listened to Kuya Jaime's advice program, "Mga Kuwento ng Pag-ibig, Pagsubok at Buhay" (9 to 12 midnight) on Angel Radio, a listener who sought the host's advice entertained calls on her cell phone twice while she was being given advice! Perhaps we should require all mobile phone users to take a "Cell Phone Etiquette 101" class before allowing them to use one!

There were light moments, though. A woman called to greet her grandfather on-air. Nothing peculiar there. What was peculiar was the fact that her *lolo* was already dead. Jaime teased, "*O sige*, we will ask your *lolo* to pay you a visit tonight."

"*Huwag naman,*" the caller pleaded, then went on to say hello to her boyfriend. She whispered, "I love you very much." When Jaime asked her why she was whispering, she explained, "*Baka marinig, e!*"

On Angelique's show, she interviewed MMDA chairman Ben Abalos, Justice Secretary Nani Perez and Senate President Franklin Drilon consecutively. But all three interviews were unceremoniously cut off by their cell phones' inability to maintain a clear signal in transit. So much for high technology. *(To be concluded)*

Crazy road . . .

(From page E1)

Hernandez's first paying job was a commercial for a digital camera. "I've never seen it because it only airs in Japan. Maybe that's a good thing because I was pretty raw."

A few months later, Hernandez won a recurring role on the TV series "Hang Time." "It's a Saturday morning series like 'Saved by the Bell.' I played this cool-guy basketball player for two seasons."

In "crazy/beautiful," Hernandez plays a young Mexican-American who is a star on the school football team, and he just completed a role opposite Dennis Quaid in "The Rookie" in which he is a baseball player. "I did track and soccer in high school but I wasn't what you could call an athlete so I find it ironic that I'm always being cast as one." There are actually some real parallels between Hernandez and Carlos Nuñez, the boy he plays in "crazy/ beautiful."

Tight family

"I come from a very tight, loving family and I was raised just 15 miles from where Carlos lives in "crazy/ beautiful." "I still live at home with my two older brothers and younger sister. I'm third-generation Mexican-American whereas Carlos second generation, so most of his issues were never mine."

In "crazy/ beautiful," Carlos falls in love with Nicole Oakley, a wild girl in his class played by Dunst. He becomes the calming influence in her troubled life. What he only learns much later in their relationship is that her father (Bruce Davidson) is an influential congressman who can help him get a scholarship.

Alien world

"Congressman Oakley becomes Carlos' angel just as Howard became mine. Meeting Nicole plunged Carlos into a new and vastly different world just as meeting Howard plunged me into a completely alien world.

"Here I am, starring with the girl from 'Interview with the Vampire' and 'Bring it On.' I was really intimidated by the thought of acting opposite her. She was so generous ad helpful. I know she could tell how nervous I was.

"She said if there was ever anything she could help me with or that I wanted to know not to hesitate asking her. Just knowing she was there for me put me at ease.

"We have a lot of intimate scenes together and Kirsten said I made her feel comfortable doing them.

"That meant so much to me coming from a person whose work I respect so highly."

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WATSON. Has become a classical sensation with the release of his debut disc, "The Voice."

Russell Watson's tenor may not win over the critics, but gets plenty of fans

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Had Russell Watson followed some early career advice, the classical tenor might be singing 'N Sync-like pop tunes instead of arias.

Boy band

"I was told, 'Oh Russell, join a boy band, leave the opera to the Italians,'" the 27-year-old Brit recalls hearing from agents. "That just made me more determined."

His determination has paid off handsomely. Watson, who is not classically trained and who got his start singing Meat Loaf and Lionel Richie songs in the pubs of Manchester, has become an opera sensation with the release of his debut disc, "The Voice."

Already a best-seller in Britain, the album has spent weeks on top of Billboard's classical crossover charts. It's won praise from two of THE tenors—Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. In fact, Pavarotti recently invited Watson to sing with him at a concert. An invitation to sing for the Pope also stands.

Watson's boyish good looks and self-effacing humor have only added to his appeal. This month, PBS stations will air "The Voice," a special featuring Watson in concert, and on Aug. 18, he will be among the artists performing for President Bush on "An American Celebration at Ford Theatre," airing on ABC.

Normal guy

"He's a normal guy, and people relate to that. He's almost the boy next door of this music," says Kevin Gore, president of Universal Classics Group, the parent company of Watson's record label, Decca.

There are plenty of people in the classical world, however, who wish Watson had taken that early career advice. Most of the arrows come from critics who characterize his tenor as they have that of Andrea Bocelli—lightweight.

But Watson believes the criticism has little to do with his voice.

"I think the problem is that people—certainly some of the classical buffs—feel that 'He's not been to college, he hasn't gone through the traditional route, he's not from a middle-class background, he can't be good,'" he says.

Bill Hayward, Watson's vocal coach, agrees.

"I think the critics are people who are jealous," says Hayward. "Certainly in England, the opera establishment . . . is very snooty and very cliquey."

"He's not part of that, and he does not want to be," he adds. "He's the people's tenor."

Watson dropped out of high school at age 16, and most of his knowledge of classical music comes from his childhood, when his working-class parents played arias, along with pop tunes, in the house.

Interlinked

"I was pretty much growing up in an environment where classical and pop were almost interlinked, so it didn't seem unnatural to me at all," he says. "There was no facade with classical music to an 8-year-old's eye. One doesn't see necessarily the elitism and the snobbery that's attached to it."

Watson, who worked briefly as a laborer, began singing in local bars, taking requests while people played pool.

"I must admit there where nights where I felt like, 'What the . . . am I doing in this place?' Absolute diabolical venues," he says.

It was a performance in one of those pubs, however, that changed Watson's life.

As he tells it—and he likes to tell it often—he was getting ready to sing one night when one of the club managers requested a certain song: "Nessty Dormat."

"Of course, he meant 'Nessun Dorma,' which I was familiar with anyway, because of my childhood," said Watson.

Watson took some time to practice the song, from Puccini's "Turandot," since he knew no Italian. When he sang it for the audience, the response was overwhelming.

"It was the first time that I'd ever had a standing ovation. So after that, it wasn't really a difficult decision as to what my vocation might be," he said. "And that was when I began to develop my voice."

Vocal coaches

Watson began studying with vocal coaches and sang opera almost exclusively. He graduated from pubs to cabaret lounges to small theaters, and eventually had enough of a following that he was asked to sing "Nessum Dorma" before the 1999 European World Cup final.

He believes part of the reason for his success is that he didn't spend decades training at musical academies trying to perfect his voice.

"I've sort of taken the backdoor route into the classical industry, and maybe that's what's made me a little bit more popular, and gives my voice a popular touch," he says. *AP*

Sense of joy and warmth

By Pocholo Concepcion

"In the end, the only real definition of music is how the great Italian composer Busoni described it—it is sonorous air, nothing more than that."—**Daniel Barenboim, director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Berlin State Opera**

LET'S break the language barrier and try appreciating music solely through its sound.

Sometime before his death, internationally renowned Filipino conductor Redentor Romero gifted us with a CD of Russian violinist Alexandru Tomescu. Produced by the Russian Music Society and recorded live during a concert at the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatoire, it features Tomescu leading the Great Hall Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonid Nikolaev.

ROMERO. Honored at Ayala Museum.

In the album, Tomescu interprets six tracks from the violin concertos of Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) of Germany and Nicolo Paganini (1782-1840) of Italy—both popular composers during and after their time.

Maybe it comes with age, but it's not so difficult to dig classical music now, compared to 10 years ago. Then again, it's just a matter of opening up one's ears to all the good classical stuff that other people have loved for centuries.

Tomescu has some pretty cool stuff up his sleeves. Nope, we're not pretending to recognize whether he reads those notes and melodies with formal excellence. Let the artist and orchestra worry about music sheets.

What matters to us is the sense of joy and warmth that Tomescu weaves out of his instrument. Like a magical wand, from his hands spring forth the different moods and range of emotions that color life on earth.

In classical music we hear the full resonating beats of the human heart. This must be one reason why the young Romero seriously considered taking up the violin as a career, although he became more famous as an orchestra conductor and, later, as artistic director of the National Philharmonic Society.

The Philharmonic will always be remembered for having brought to our shores scores of first-rate ballerinas and classical musicians (including Tomescu) from all over the globe. And for that we are forever grateful to Romero.

(The National Philharmonic Society is organizing a music exhibit and tribute to its late founder at the Ayala Museum. For details, call 815-2651/ 818-1752.)

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'Millionaire's' top winner and other achievers

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

THE popular game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" has produced its first million-peso winner—Amelita Lopez Forbes, a university professor who easily hurdled all of the questions until the crucial P2 million clincher.

The question worth P2 M was "*Ano ang* first name *ni* Mr. Snuffleupagus *na nakatira sa* Sesame Street?" She opted to take her one million rather than risk a wrong reply. The correct answer was Aloysius. The purple Mr. Snuffleupagus is Big Bird's imaginary friend, who is a cross between an elephant and a mammoth.

Ms. Forbes teaches communication subjects in a Manila university. She intends to save part of her winnings and to spend the rest travelling with her Australian husband John. She also intends to once more try her luck as a WW2BAM contestant until she gets to bring home the P2 million grand prize.

Her one million pesos prize was given to her by Viva Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Vic del Rosario Jr., PLDT Senior Vice President for the GMM Retail Business Group Ito Ramirez and host Christopher de Leon.

"WW2BAM" is now the leading game show on local television. It notched its highest rating ever of 20.9 percent last July 17 from a previous high of 18.5 percent. This represents 29.2 percent audience share. The Viva TV production is the Philippine franchise of the British quiz show of the same title. The local version airs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 8 to 9 p.m. on Saturdays.

Blissful marriage

Eight years of blissful marriage have made Mariz a winner in her own right. Having a responsible husband like Ronnie Ricketts and two adorable daughters are what Mariz considers heaven's rewards to her. She feels extremely fortunate.

Many a time, Ronnie convinced his wife to resume her acting career but to no avail. "I want to be at my children's side most specially during their formative years. I want to personally teach them the values my parents taught me.

"I don't want to just prepare food for my family, I want to serve them myself. This is one reason why we put up The Barn. I want to experiment on other food specialties aside from the Pampango cuisine I grew up with," Mariz says.

When the lawyer part in "Mano Mano 2" surfaced, Ronnie only had Mariz in mind to play the role. Admittedly, Mariz also missed acting in front of the camera but she has other reasons why she consented to accept the offer.

"It won't keep me away from my family because it is Ronnie who is directing. The role only requires a few shooting days and there is no need for location shooting. *At siyempre, maganda yung* role," she explains.

FORBES AND DE LEON. Finally, a million-peso winner.

"Mano-Mano 2" is the couple's fifth movie together. They earlier appeared in "Kakampi Ako ng Diyos," "Pambato," "Ganti ng Api," and "Madaling Mamatay, Mahirap Mabuhay."

Family will always be Mariz's first priority. Although they have put up The Barn restaurant in Katipunan. Mariz sees to it that her work doesn't conflict with her roles as wife and mother.

Verni Varga in concert

When Verni Varga topbills August 16 show at the Alegria, it would be a dream come true for Lily Beth Garcia, who is the front act of the intimate concert. Ms Varga has been her idol ever since, and appearing with her is a big thrill and honor.

Garcia, an accountant by profession, has shifted to singing, her first love. She performs every Tuesday and Friday at Ciao at Dusit Hotel, and at the Conservatory of the Manila Pen on Thursdays. She has also performed in Dubai, UAE; Golden Sands Hotel in Penang, Malaysia, and with the Concept band at Sheraton Hotel in Manama, Bahrain.

Her repertoire includes classic songs from the '50s, Broadway favorites, old jazz standards and current hits.

Beth will soon cut an album for a major recording company.

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Carlos Agassi goes beyond rapping

AGASSI. Finally fulfilling some of his dreams.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

"GIVE your best and God will do the rest." "Don't take things for granted." Words to live by from Carlos Agassi, the good-looking hunk who started out as a rap artist and is now reinventing himself as an entertainer.

Ambitions

Carlos is your average, everyday guy with dreams and ambitions just like the next person. When you hear him talk, he sounds just like any college student, starry-eyed and idealistic. And why not? He's on top of the world now, with a rap album to his name (and one more in the making), a major role opposite Claudine Barretto in a closely-followed soap opera "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," a new identity as a member of the "Hunks" and several commercial endorsements to his name.

Because of his well-toned body, a result of religiously going to the gym at least three times a week, Carlos was chosen to be one of the image models of Hanford underwear products, along with Cesar Montano, South Border vocalist Luke Mejares and Alex Compton. We caught up with the singer/actor at the posh indoor swimming pool of the Linden Suites where he had a photo shoot for Hanford. During a lull in the photo session, he put on a white bathrobe and joined us at the fitness center adjoining the pool.

Carlos says that he was spotted wearing a *sando* and a Hanford executive immediately called him up. "*Marami kaming pinagpipilian, mga* hunks *talaga! Di ko alam kung bakit ako iyung pinili nila,*" Carlos says humbly.

The "Hunk" title is shared with four other colleagues (Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual and Bernard Palanca) on the Saturday noontime show, "ASAP." Carlos says it started out as lighthearted banter on the set. "*Biru-biruan lang* . . . We were talking about coming up with a group, *parang* something different *na mapapagsama-sama kaming lima. Kasi iba-iba iyung ginagawa namin,* from Bernard who's part of a rock group to Piolo, ballad, *ako* rap, *pag pinagsama-sama, ano kaya mangyayari? Akala nila magulo lang, puro kalokohan lang*, and then . . ."as they say, the rest is history.

The group recently performed at the Music Museum to a sellout audience. Carlos was surprised at the good reception the group received. "I never dreamed of performing at Music Museum. Individually *siguro* we could do a Music Museum show *pero in* the future (*pa*). *Hindi iyung* this year. *Nagulat kami na punong-puno*!" The show was so successful the group is having a repeat on Aug. 22 at the same venue.

Nervous

Carlos shares that he and his fellow "Hunks" were so nervous that one of them threw up, while another was sitting quietly in one corner as they waited for the show to start. Carlos is proud because he viewed the audience present that night as "hard to please," but the reception they got was beyond their expectations.

Carlos shares their feelings that night: "*Wow, tanggap na tanggap kami! Pag labas namin* (*sa* stage), *nanginginig pa kami*. And then when we left, *parang*, wow, *sarap, ha*!" ***(To be concluded)***

10 YEARS AGO

Vilma-Boyet screen tandem revived

BY NOELANI TORRE

TANDEMS seemed to be the norm in local entertainment 10 years ago, what with stars teaming up with former screen partners or making new ones. Let's take a look at some of them:

Leading lady

Gellie de Belen, who had previously been linked to Raymart Santiago, became Herbert Bautista's leading lady in the "Bistek" sitcom. As Raymart had opted for action stardom, he no longer needed the tweetum-ish love team. In real life, however, rumor had it that Herbert had fallen like a ton of bricks for funny girl Ruby Rodriguez. Ignoring snide remarks about his being a "chubby chaser," he persisted in making *ligaw*. Very commendable.

Another rumor was also making the rounds then. It was whispered about that Vilma Santos was going to do a movie with estranged hubby Edu Manzano.

However, Ate Vi was reported to be having second thoughts about the project as many entertainment writers, who were also good friends of the star for all seasons, viewed Edu with disfavor.

However, despite threats of non-support from entertainment writers, Edu was praised by some critics for his rising ability as a character actor. His performance in "Kaaway ng Batas," opposite Rudy Fernandez, got him a Famas Best Supporting Actor award.

Still, he failed to impress some people. "*Magaling talaga 'yang si* Edu *as a kontrabida dahil hindi na niya kailangang umarte,*" was the sarcastic sentiment of a writer.

Viva was also set to give Edu a "much-awaited and long-delayed" solo action movie.

Trophies

Ate Vi refused to be left behind—she was then just about to finish a movie with Christopher de Leon, "Ipagpatawad Mo." That movie, marked the return of the award-winning Vilma-Boyet tandem (their last was "Imortal" in '89, which raked in trophies at the Metro Manila Film Festival). "Ipagpatawad Mo" was directed by Laurice Guillen, whose Sharon-Gabby flick did very well at the tills.

A possible pairing-up of two well-known actresses was cancelled by the actresses themselves. The plan to revive the rivalry between Snooky Serna and Maricel Soriano was shot down when the two annoyed each other during their first meeting with Regal's Lily Monteverde.

They called off plans for their reunion movie but, as one writer put it, "This could just be their way of letting people know that they're still very much around . . ."

In other, non-tandem-related news, a box office clash was narrowly averted between two of director Maria Saret's action babies—"Zaldong Tisoy" and "Nakaukit na ang Lapida Mo, Junior Elvis." The two movies had been set to open on the same day! Luckily, "Nakaukit..." was rescheduled. Ian Veneracion's "Zaldong Tisoy" opened first and performed well.

Spotlight

Two actresses were in the spotlight 10 years ago—Snooky Serna and Kris Aquino. People were wondering whether the former's career was slowing down, and whether the latter's was going to slow down in the near future.

VILMA AND BOYET. Co-starred once more in Guillen's "Ipagpatawad Mo."

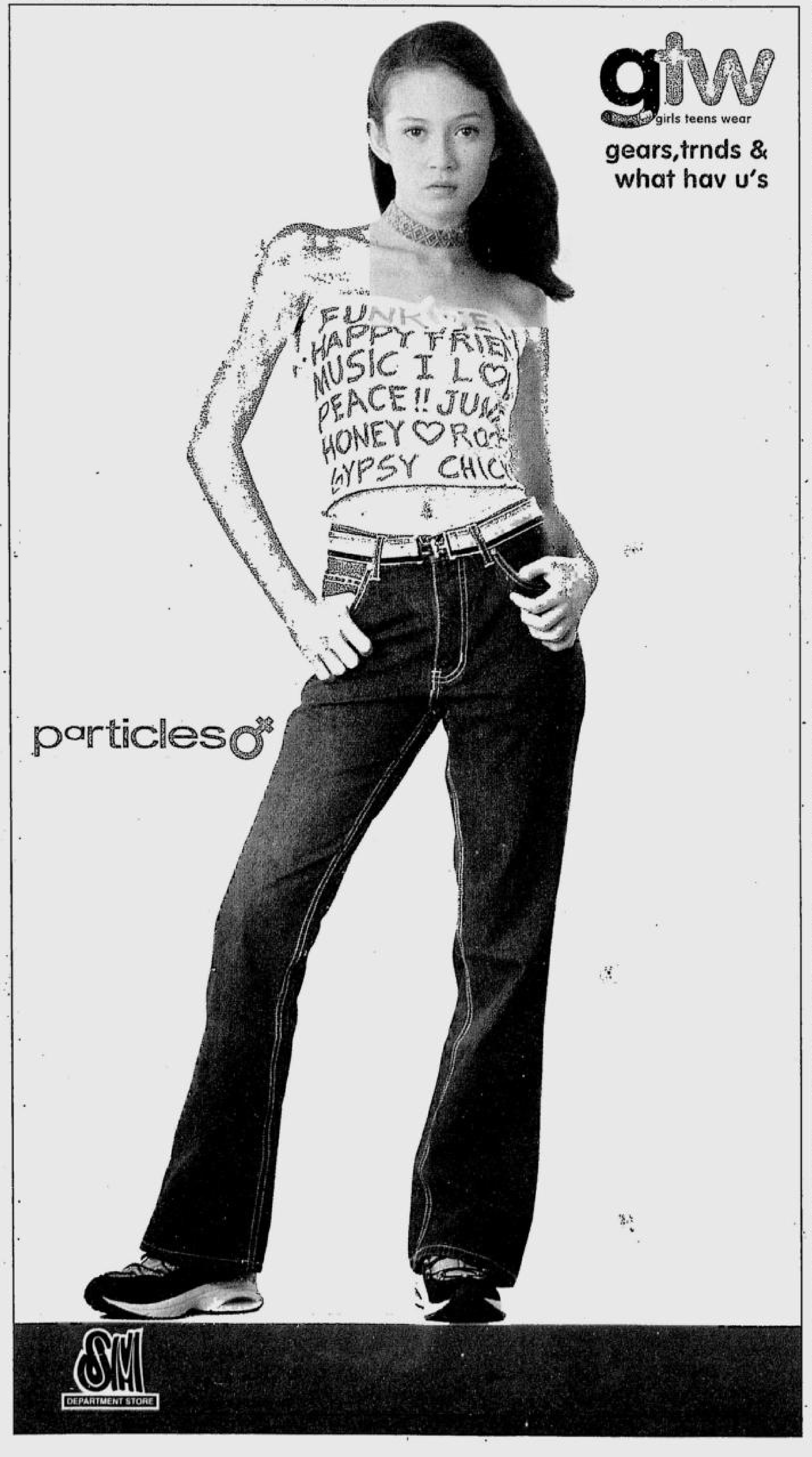
Snooky Serna's career had been at a standstill for at least six months. It was said, however, that this seeming unproductiveness only signified Snooky's all-consuming search for a good project. She was cautious in choosing her next movie because she did not want to lose the momentum she gained with her Best Supporting Actress trophy at the Star Awards (for her performance in "Hahamakin Lahat").

"I feel I have to live up to people's expectations," she said. "I want a role that can match the fulfillment I gained in 'Hahamakin Lahat,' which the public responded to favorably. I want my performance to compensate for the viewing public's support for me. In this way, I can acknowledge their help and will satisfy my own requirements as an actress, as well."

As a matter of fact, she was just about to start shooting "Kailan Ko Hahagkan ang Lupa?" where she played Cornelia, a *basurera* who dreamt of becoming rich but had to come to terms with herself and those around her when she finally achieved her dream.

The movie, directed by Gil Portes, also starred Gabby Concepcion and Richard Cepeda. "I

VILMA/P. E7



May 1, 1976: Two events of consequence

BY BEHN CERVANTES

MARTIAL Law had been in place for four years that May 1 of 1976. The voice of the traditional opposition had been stifled. Only the determined Left dared make its presence felt.

Clash

This was a clash of opposing forces. The scene was untenable. Something had to give. Abuse of power was manifest at every turn. Tradpols had been co-opted. Others waited for the right moment to come forth, or so they rationalized. The Marcos regime was overplaying its power with the help of the military that was enjoying its premiere position, not to mention the many perks that were enriching its officers.

The underground felt it was time to show the country that there was indeed a dissenting voice that maintained its disdain for the prevailing dictatorship.

So far, there had already been pocket rallies staged by students and workers. There was a manifest groundswell of protest in the air. While the bourgeois whispered and gossiped, the activists went to the streets and risked incarceration, torture and death at the hands of the military.

At the University of the Philippines the anti-Marcos-US forces were heard and seen in various cultural forms. Many poignant revolutionary songs composed by young musicians caught the fancy of the public. These were sung in concerts, plays, forums and plays.

Heartfelt works

Young activists wishing to replicate the First Quarter Storm exploited the possibilities of nationalist cultural forms. Writers of consequence along with young poets and novelists penned heartfelt works poignantly longing for true freedom, extolling the revolutionary struggle and the courage of comrades who took up arms in the countryside in defense of the oppressed and the eventual establishment of national liberation.

These cultural works uniformly urged the nation to link arms in bringing down the Marcos regime, Martial Law and all its stood for, as well as the debilitating control of US Imperialism over our economy, politics and, yes for progressive artists, our national culture.

More radical literary pieces encouraged the sons and daughters of revolutionary martyrs Andres Bonifacio and Gabriela Silang to take up arms against the Three Isms so that the Filipino masses would finally behold that glorious morn when the red sun would shine resplendent in the East.

Visual artists were openly depicting the armed struggle and the gory effects of Fascism in their experimental works. Never was culture more pro-people and creative in its expression of the Filipino revolutionary sprit. Established and new artists were actively denouncing Martial Law, Imperialism as well as Feudalism and Bureaucrat Capitalism. The other ism, the much-hated Fascism, was also very much a part of activist vocabulary.

Struggle

The workers, peasants, urban poor, students and professionals were joined by the valiant members of the church who supported the Theology of Liberation in the nation's struggle to bring back true democracy.

My own plays, e.g. "Ang Bundok" by Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio, "Dapithapon" by Domingo Landicho, and then, later on "Pagsambang Bayan" and "Sigaw Ng Bayan" by Boni Ilagan produced by the UP Repertory Company, were attracting a wide following among the radicals of Greater Manila, as well as the ire of military intelligence agents assigned to the Diliman campus. UP Rep members were composed of a many-layered set of participants in the underground struggle. A brave and dedicated group they were, too.

By late March, we got word via the grapevine that a big lightning rally would be held on May 1. It would be multi-sectoral in nature and would require the help of all organized groups. Labor Day, after all was dedicated to the aspirations of the proletariat with worldwide significance, so on that day the underground forces would stage the first public rally against the Marcos regime.

Morale boosters

There had been pocket rallies in the University Belt as well as UP, of course. These were morale boosters to the student activists quickly increasing by the day with the organizing efforts of established anti-Marcos groups, as well as lectures, forums, discussions and other forms of political conversion.

On May 1, however the rally was planned to attract the attention of the international press. Naturally, the foreign press based in Manila was alerted on the significant event.

Plans were being laid out. Each progressive organization was urged to pool its resources for the May 1 rally. We were all busy with the many preparations. Slogans were created, posters and banners made. We checked the readiness of the members, ensured security and, naturally maintained utmost secrecy.

Simultaneously, Nestor Torre, Manny Pichel, Bien Lumbera, Nic Tiongson and Pio de Castro III had hatched the idea to form a critics' group from among us practicing film reviewers. Nestor and I had been the film reviewers for the old Manila Chronicle. Pichel, Lumbera, Tiongson and Castro had also started writing film reviews. The group also asked Doy Del Mundo, Gino Dormiendo and Pete Daroy to join the founding set.

First meeting

The first meeting would be held in the popular Ermita watering hole Taza de Oro on Roxas blvd., fronting the US Embassy. The aims of the group were lofty. It would seriously criticize the local film industry while encouraging its better artists to continue making films of quality, or at least attempted quality. Sincere effort was a consideration.

I was again doing more than three things at the same time. I was directing a play, I was teaching, I was having secret meetings with more than one group. On the side, I was helping organize the first meeting of the critics' circle that would eventually be called the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

The group would give the Urian trophies to be the best cinematic efforts of the year in recognition of works that dared break the parameters set by the current sloppy production set-up, as well as the thematic limitations of Martial Law. It was a group worth setting up! ***(To be concluded)***

Rita Avila continues to love performing

By Ricky T. Gallardo

FIFTEEN years after she first made her splash in the entertainment circuit, the word "reticent" best describes Rita Avila's brand of acting: no hysterics, exaggerated body and facial movements, unnecessary mannerisms, or put-on manner of delivery.

AVILA. Plays a scheming lawyer in "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

Profession

In recent months, Avila could've also said "no more" to the profession she loves most — had her plans to settle down materialized. But fate seemed to have intervened and she found herself more drawn to being an actress.

Never mind if movie offers are slow in coming. Avila is not perturbed because there's always television.

Even when soaps were not yet the in thing, Avila was already a regular face in "Familia Zaragosa." Now, after memorable stints in "Marinella" and "Anna Karenina," Avila is back with a vengeance in Channel 7's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," where she takes on the role of a scheming lawyer who's plotting against the character played by Albert Martinez.

"It's a role I haven't played before, so it's both new and exciting. The first day of taping is usually the most difficult because you're inching your way into the story," she says.

Avila's entry to the show felt more satisfying for her when she was informed that her character would be introduced at the same time as those played by Dina Bonnevie and Chanda Romero, two actresses she holds in high esteem.

"When GMA was beefing up the show with additional actors and I was invited to come in, I felt good. Imagine, being in the company of Dina and Chanda, who are both accomplished actors!" she exclaims.

"*Pareho silang* thinking actors, *kailangang alam kung saan pupunta ang* dialogue *at kung saan nanggaling.*"

Mentality

Even when cynics tell her that soaps are reserved only for hasbeens, Avila doesn't care one bit. "I'm used to the kind of mentality most people in the industry have. *Pag pikon ka at pinatulan mo ang ganyang kababaw na* issue, *talo ka. Kaya ako,* I just do my job and they can say what they want to say, *mapapagod din sila.*"

Avila didn't use to be this resilient and secure. Like many aspiring actors, she also underwent a lot of trying times.

Her first role was in a movie called "The Sisters," where she appeared opposite Stella Suarez Jr. (Richard Gomez's sister) but she got her big break in Dolphy's "Bata-Batuta."

Solo starrer

Producer Robbie Tan believed in her acting skills so much that he launched her right away in a solo starrer titled "Alyas Stella Magtanggol," which established Avila as an actress. In the film, she was handled by Chito Roño, who up to this day considers the movie one of his personal favorites.

The first 10 years in Avila's career were immersed in "going through everything that a show biz personality goes through," as she describes it. It was only during the last five years that her real talent was recognized.

But it had to take critics in Singapore to give Avila her most cherished recognition ever—as the Asian TV Awards' Best Drama Actress—and, without batting an eyelash she says, "My one and only award, so far."

Award or no award, one thing remain constant in Avila's mind: to be consistent in her chosen craft and give the best she can in every role she gets.

Vilma-Boyet . . .

(From page E6)

think this project will be worth the effort and the wait," Snooky opined.

Strong contender

Snooky was also thought to be a strong contender for nominee in the Star Awards for Television, as Best Actress in a Drama Series. She earned rave reviews from critics for her "remarkable" performance in her drama anthology, "Regal Golden Hour Presents Snooky," a show which, unfortunately, only ran for two seasons.

"I feel now, more than ever, that I have a responsibility to my audience—to give life to interesting characters and give justice to those characters," the "consummate actress" enthused. She sounded really serious but, oh, where are you now, Snooky?

As for Kris Aquino, the question everyone was asking about her was whether she would still be popular after her mother's term would end in 1992. When asked, the then presidential daughter laughed it off and remained confident. Well, who wouldn't, with a million-peso movie contract with Regal under her belt?

Millions

"*Kahit na siguro wala na sa posisyon ang* Mommy *ko, mananatili pa rin ang ningning ng aking bituin,*" she said. "I don't think Mother Lily would invest millions on me *kung hindi siya bilib sa akin.* In most of my movies, we are trying to combine box-office and artistic merits.

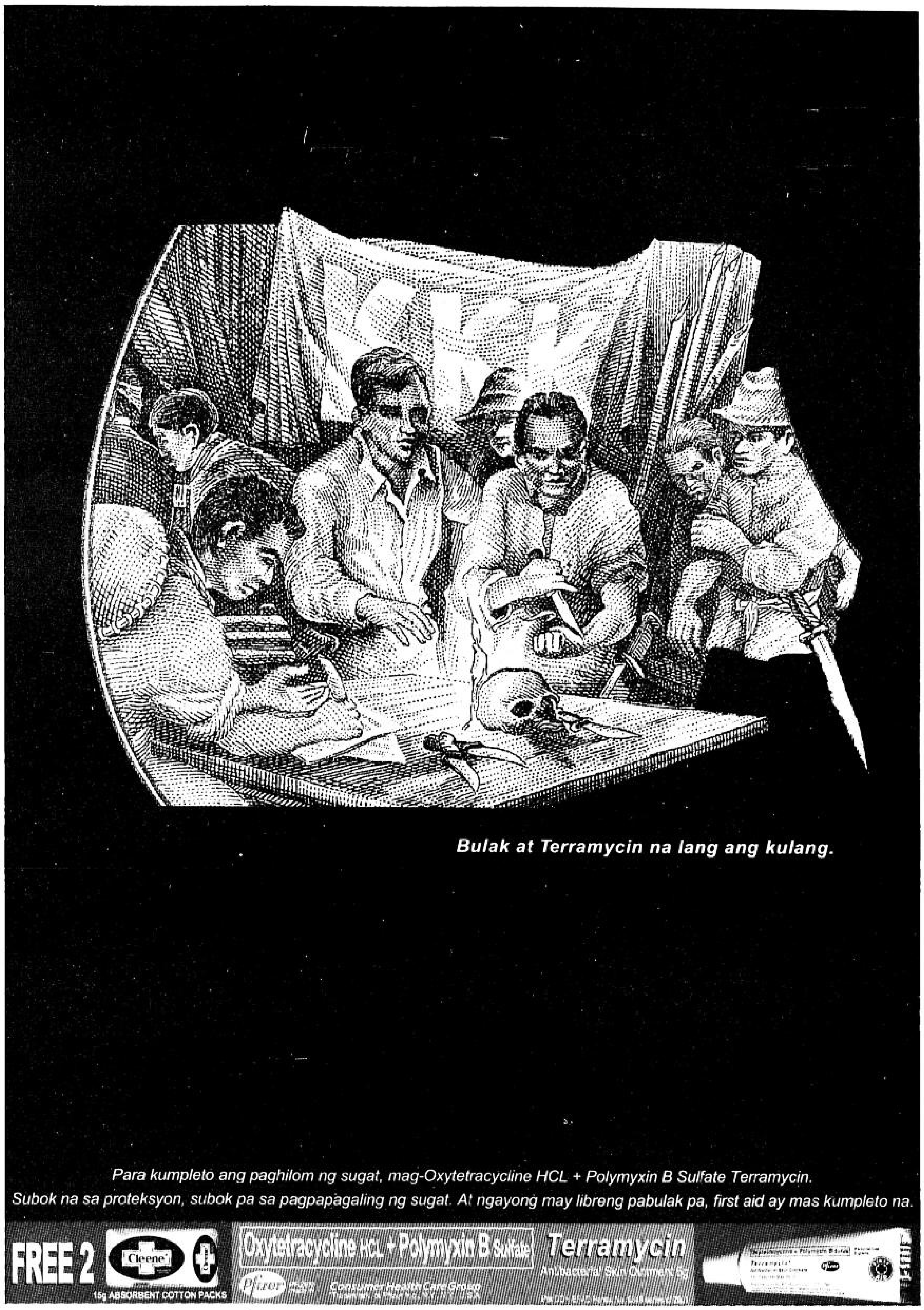
"I love this business enough to stick with it and I'll take great pains to make sure that I'll still be around after 1992," she stated.

Kris was very busy with several movie projects. She was to costar with Richard Gomez in the action-drama "Ang Siga at ang Sosyal," directed by Toto Natividad from a screenplay by Ed Palmos.

"*Ibang putahe ito,*" Kris explained. "*Walang* ST or gruesome scenes, unlike other action-drama pictures, *kaya hindi ito* 'Rated R.' Besides, I'm banking on our teamup. *Bagong* tandem, *kaya sana naman magustuhan ng mga manonood.*"

The actress thought Richard to be the ideal man and was enthusiastic to be working with him in Chito Roño's "Bakit Pa Kita Minahal?", which also starred Ruffa Gutierrez and Aga Muhlach.

Here's something sort of ironic: Kris, back in '91, saw herself 10 years from then as a happily married woman, living a peaceful and contented life. Well, we all know what really happened, don't we?



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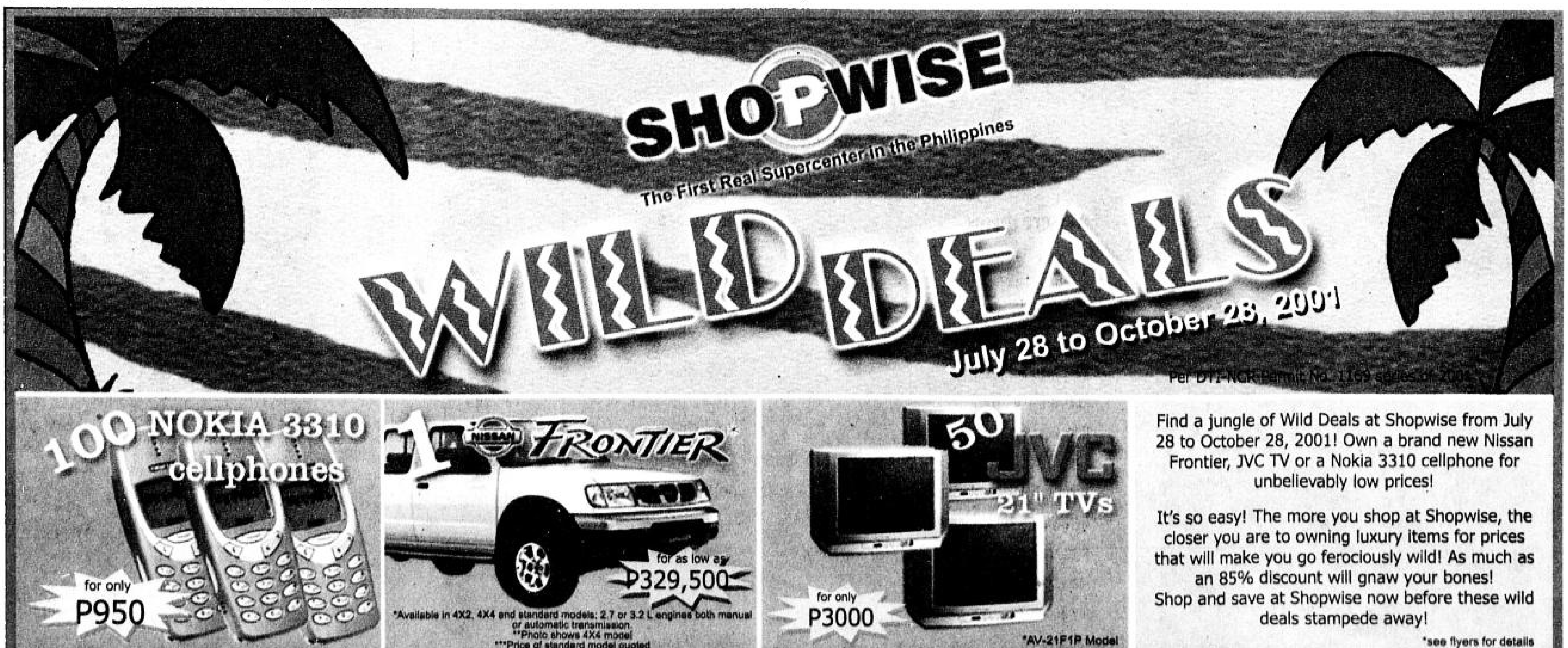

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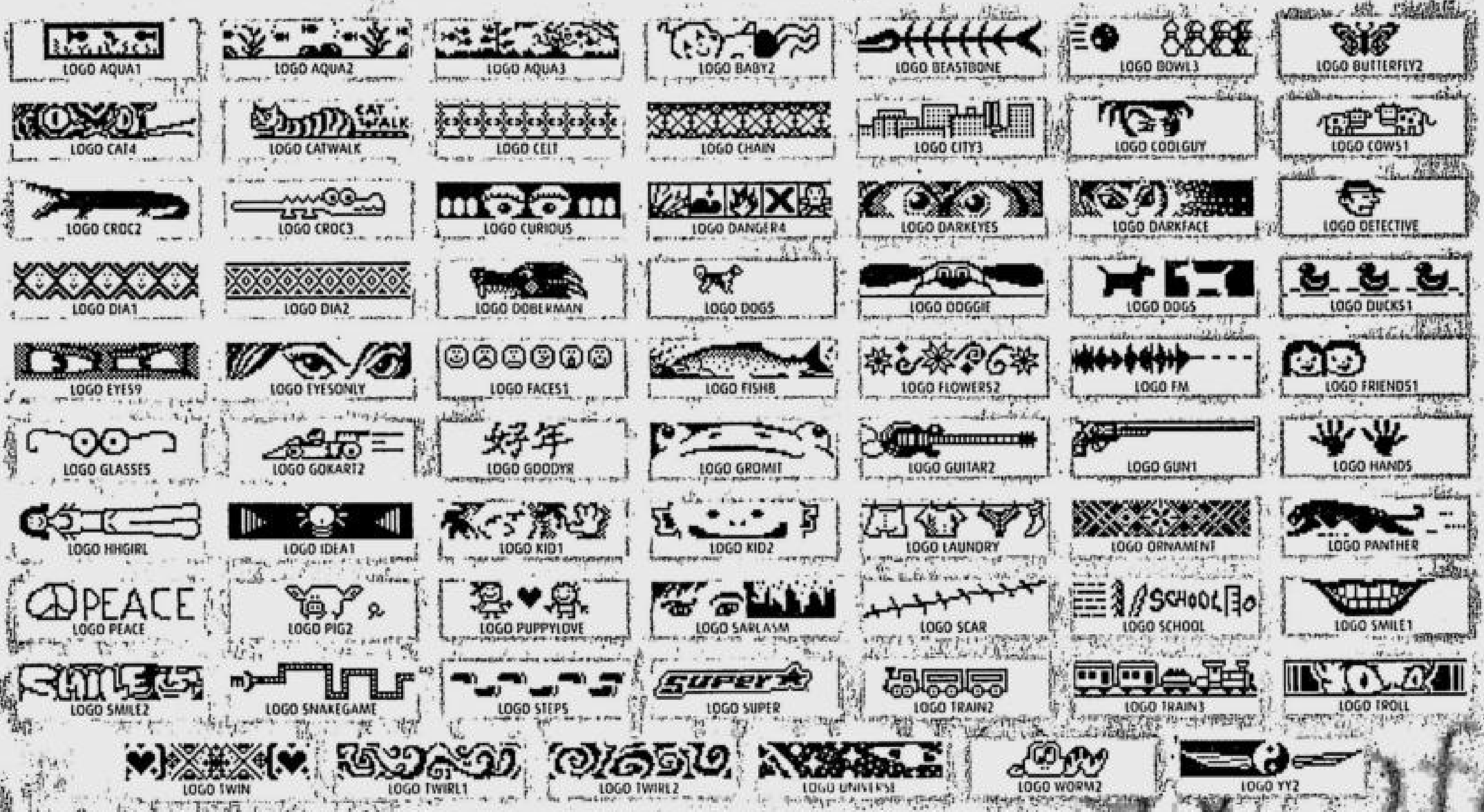

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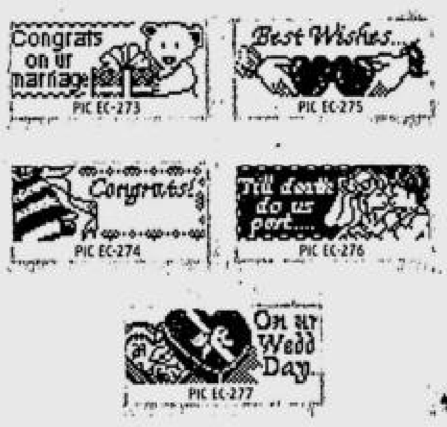

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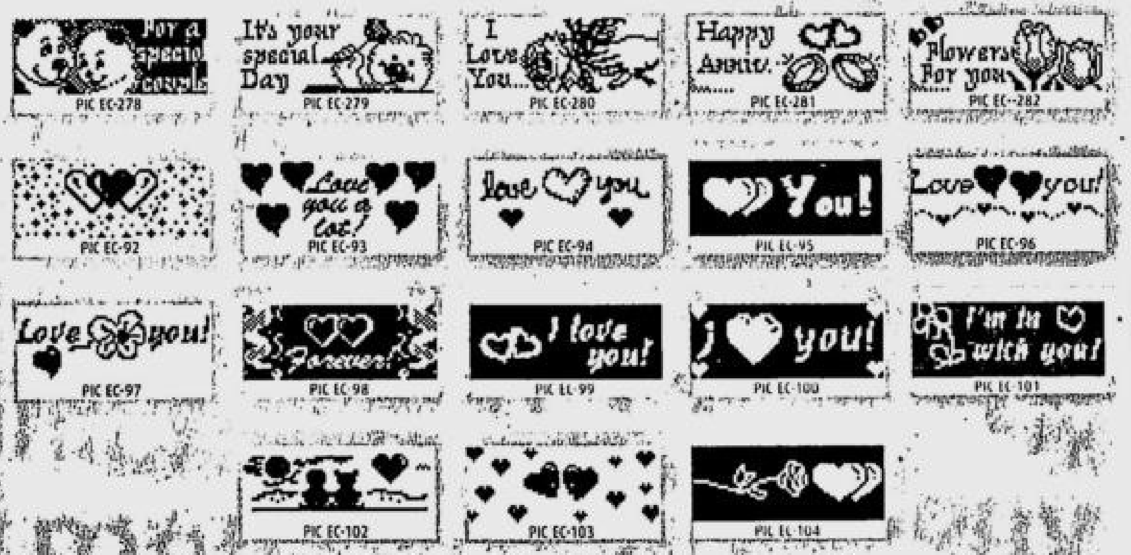

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Saturday SPECIAL

REYNOLDS. At 69, she's amazingly upbeat, considering the tragedies that have befallen her.

Debbie Reynolds remains unsinkable

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—The telephone jangled, and Debbie Reynolds lifted the receiver. "Hello, Elizabeth, how are you?" she said. In a whisper she explained to a visitor: "It's Elizabeth Taylor."

Weird

To a reporter hearing half of the conversation, it seemed weird.

After all, 43 years ago Taylor stole Reynolds' husband, Eddie Fisher, igniting one of the biggest Hollywood scandals.

After the conversation ended, Reynolds said: "Elizabeth has had a very dramatic life, and how she has made it, we don't know.

"Somebody up there likes Elizabeth very much, because to overcome all these real illnesses—and these are real; brain tumors are not something you dream up—I think it's a miracle that she's still with us. Now all she wants to do is good.

"In the old days, if Elizabeth saw a man she wanted, she got him, no matter who she stepped over. She admits that . . . She laughs a lot about why in the world she wanted Eddie. It was just because Mike Todd had died, and Eddie was his best friend. She thought she should be with him so they could talk about Mike Todd all the time."

The Reynolds interview took place in the living room of the house she has occupied for 19 years and is soon to abandon. It's a compact red-brick place surrounded by a chin-high ficus hedge in a middle-class section of North Hollywood, not far from the modest Burbank bungalow where she grew up.

Objects

The room was jammed with objects of all kinds: a teddy bear, Mickey and Minnie Mouse dolls, childhood photos of her children Carrie and Todd, a signed portrait of Cary Grant, a packed suitcase and more.

The house has served as a pied a terre for the peripatetic entertainer, who says she is on the road 48 weeks a year. It also provided a refuge during the periods when she was flat broke, a condition she blames on ill-advised marriages.

"All of my husbands robbed me blind," she remarked calmly, with just a tinge of bitterness. "The only one who didn't take money was Eddie Fisher; he just never paid anything for the children."

Reynolds is preparing to move across the street from daughter Carrie Fisher. The reason: "So I can be close to my granddaughter, Billie Catherine, who is now 9. I want to be close to her before she becomes a teen-ager; then she'll have no interest in the old folks."

At 69, Debbie Reynolds seems amazingly upbeat considering the tragedies that have befallen her recently. The collapse of her Las Vegas hotel, where she performed indefatigably in the showroom and displayed her prized movie memorabilia, forced her into bankruptcy.

Last year brought the deaths of her mother and Lillian Burns Sidney, her coach and adviser for 45 years. Last New Year's Day, she fell and broke her hip and heel (the hip is recovering, the heel is still troublesome).

Anthem

"But I'm still here," she announced, echoing the Stephen Sondheim anthem of a star's survival.

She's not only here, but thriving. She travels with her act; she appeared with the Boston Pops on the Fourth of July; she makes one or two TV movies a year. Her biggest project is her collection of movie costumes and artifacts, which she's been amassing since she bid at the MGM auction in 1970.

She has finally found a home for the collection: in the mammoth development on Hollywood Boulevard that includes the permanent theater for the Academy Awards. She'll have 22,000 square feet (1980 square meters) of display space.

Reynolds, whose smooth face belies her age, was in the midst of a three-day job of cataloging her collection for an appraisal that would allow her to borrow funds for the museum. Dressed casually in black pants, a flowered silk shirt and a back turban that covered her hair, she took time out to talk about her remarkable life and career.

She remembers little about her early life in El Paso, Texas, where she was born April 1, 1932, except that the family was poor.

Their condition was even worse when they moved to the MacArthur Park area of Los Angeles--then and now one of the city's most impoverished sections.

"The motel where we lived had bedbugs, so we slept out on the sidewalk," she recalled. "You didn't dress as well, you didn't eat what other people ate. There was no unhappiness with being poor. The only extra that I remember is that once a month, Daddy would get a cigar, a little, stinky nickel cigar."

(To be concluded)

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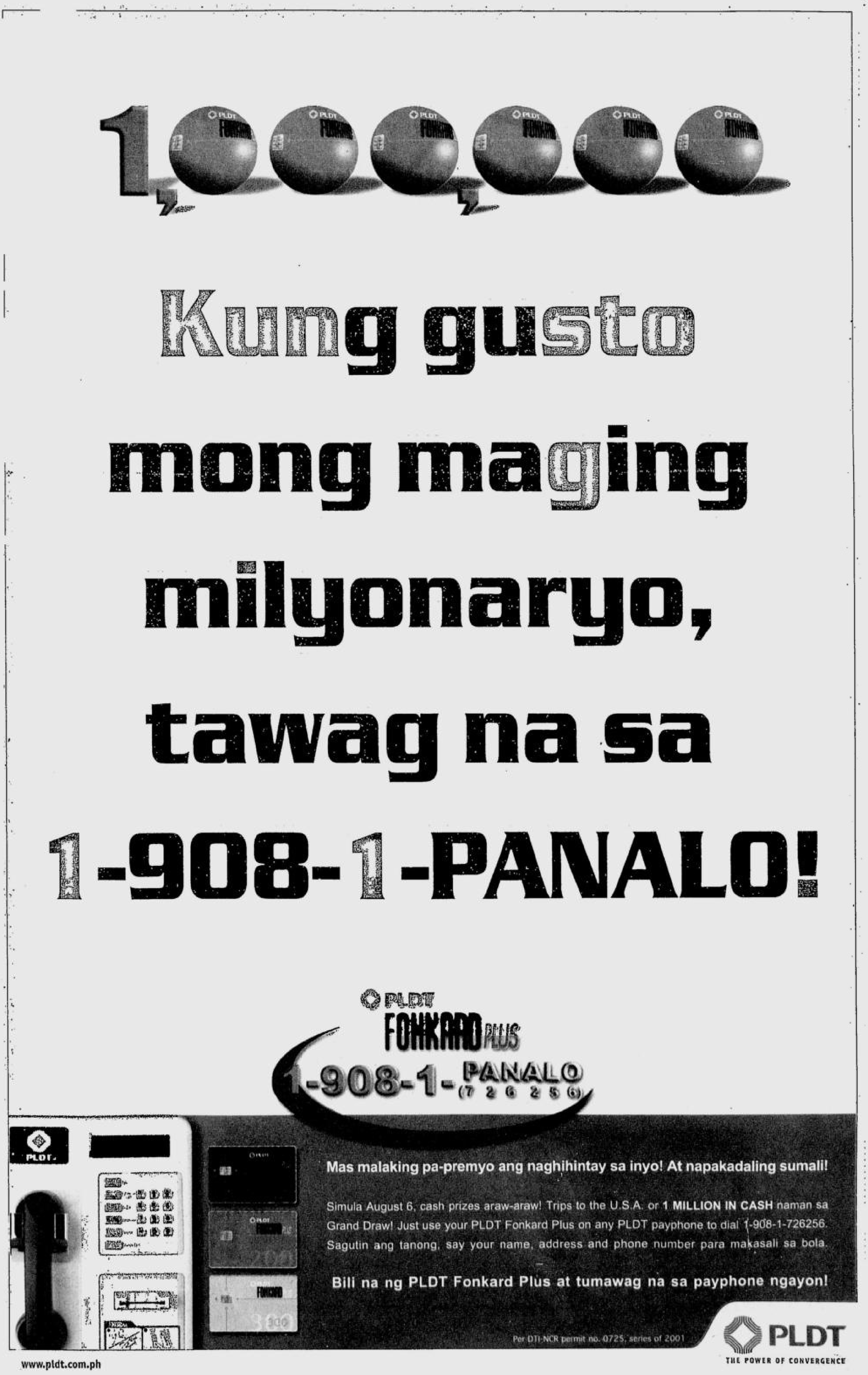

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First, let us take a look at the common skin concerns. One of the usual problems caused by the environment is photodamage—a structural damage and discoloration of the skin caused by overexposure to the sun and its ultraviolet (UV) rays. It is the main cause of dark, uneven skin tone and eventually premature wrinkles. This condition usually starts during childhood, accumulates and worsens as we get older.

Oats for the Skin. Oats Counter-Ageing Treatment effectively counteracts ageing signs.

Other main skin problems are the first signs of ageing. These include having dry, lackluster skin, the early formation of wrinkles and fine lines (usually visible around the eyes), brown age spots, and loss of firmness.

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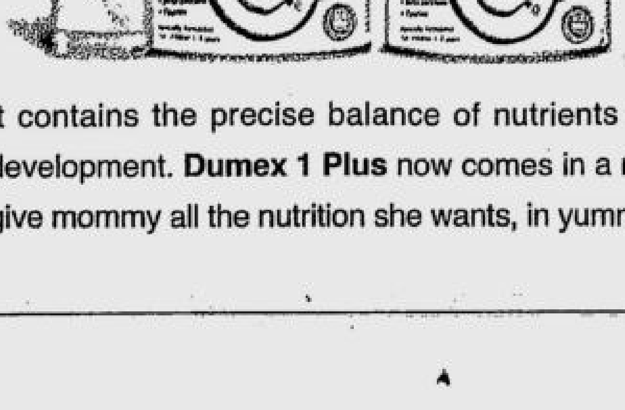

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Multiple roles are still beyond Assunta's ken

By Tess Glinoga

TO support the call to patronize our local movies, I threw in a few pesos to watch Assunta de Rossi, the latest flavor of the season, in her major film debut as a mature performer.

DE ROSSI. Unnecessary exposures.

Trilogy

The trilogy, "Red Diaries" is deluged with controversies with no less than the top honcho of the Philippine National Police complaining against its producer, director and writer for degrading the police in the anthology movie's last episode, "Lucila."

If there is any group that should denounce this film, it is the Catholic Church, which is surprisingly quiet. Some scenes in the second episode, "Cara," are blasphemous. Self-gratification is commonplace inside seminaries, but for seminarians about to take their religious vows to show complete irreverence inside the church by shamelessly reading Xerex stories is offensive.

After Assunta received Holy Communion, she erotically sucked the finger of the priest with the host still on her tongue. That is repulsive.

Second review

After getting an X rating, "Red Diaries" finally passed its second review with an "R" rating. After suffering from severe cuts, I must agree that the MTRCB did a good job. There was no over-extension of breast exposures, and no breast-mashing.

Yet, there were little unnecessary exposures. In the "Susana" episode, Assunta had all the time in the world to get dressed and flee the van where she uncaringly disrobed and made love to her boyfriend. Instead, Assunta scurried with only her small hands to cover her ample breasts.

I was hoping that the formidable tandem of director Maryo J. delos Reyes and scriptwriter Jun Lana would finally redeem Regal Films. But "Red Diaries" is a letdown. This is obviously a commercial project.

Lana chose a variation of genres, but the scripts are flawed, contrived, and oftentimes border on improbabilities.

Battered wife

Take the "Lucila" episode where Assunta portrays the role of a battered wife. Lucila shudders at the mere thought of her husband, and is constantly fearful of her limb and life. Why then would she suddenly take courage to commit adultery right in his turf, under their dining table, into their bedroom? This supposedly film noir story became instant comedy in the concluding scenes.

The producer's attempt to highlight Assunta's talent reveals her still amateurish acting capability. She would have been better off tackling a single character, because she does not yet have the range and depth to play multiple roles.

I watched Assunta emote convincingly as a rape victim in GMA's "Larawan," in an episode which featured a script lifted from the late Lino Brocka's classic, "Insiang." She shows promise as a dramatic actress. It will help her career if she solicits the help of a professional acting coach to teach her the basic rudiments of character analysis and internalization, voice modulation, and controlled acting. Then, she'll be prepared for more challenging roles.

'Sopranos,' 'West Wing' set for Emmy rematch

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—The mafia drama "The Sopranos" claimed 22 Emmy nominations to 18 nods for White House show "The West Wing," setting up a rematch of last year's heated rivalry for television's top awards.

Best drama

Each was nominated for best drama by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Emmys, joining 1999 winner, ABC legal drama "The Practice," NBC crime show "Law & Order" and NBC's long-running hospital show, "ER."

For the first time, the Academy included a new category for so-called "reality TV" series with CBS's smash hit "Survivor," leading a pack of shows in which people compete for prizes.

However, the race between HBO's "Sopranos," with the most nominations it has seen in its three seasons, and NBC's 2-year-old "West Wing" will likely grab the spotlight because the best drama grouping is considered the top Emmy category.

Last year, HBO's "Sopranos" and NBC's "West Wing" tied in the nominations with 18 apiece. When all the trophies were tallied up, "West Wing" walked off with the prize for favorite drama and a record nine Emmys for its fictional portrayal of White House staffers and their political battles.

Mob boss

But "Sopranos" could only muster one Emmy last year for James Gandolfini, who portrays mob boss Tony Soprano in the show about the lives of a New Jersey mafia family. This year, Gandolfini again faces Martin Sheen in the category for best actor in a drama. Sheen plays US President Josiah Bartlet in "West Wing."

"Anybody who puts on the tuxedo on Sunday would be less than genuine if they didn't tell you they were disappointed if they didn't win," "Sopranos" executive producer Brad Grey told Reuters.

But Grey said that he doesn't pay attention to all the rivalry chatter because both shows—indeed, all five best drama nominees—represent some of the best viewing on TV.

"West Wing" creator Aaron Sorkin agreed. "It just raises the stature of TV," he said.

"WEST Wing" stars Rob Lowe and Martin Sheen are both nominated for Best Actor in a Drama.

Sorkin added that the 18 nominations this year were "sweeter the second time," because it shows "West Wing" was able to maintain its level of creativity.

"It's harder to be good for two years, than one," he said.

Contender

"Will & Grace," last year's winner for best comedy, is again a contender in that category, and the NBC hit show about the friendship of a gay man, Will, and a straight woman, Grace, proved to be the most nominated comedy, with 12 nods.

As it did last year, it will likely face its stiffest competition from HBO's "Sex and the City," about the dating lives of four single women living in New York.

Other shows in the best-comedy grouping are the CBS hit show "Everybody Loves Raymond," veteran NBC sitcom "Frasier" and the more recent Fox hit, "Malcolm in the Middle."

Overall, HBO grabbed the most nominations with 94, followed by NBC with 76, ABC with 63, CBS with 46 and Fox with 40.

Among performers, Patricia Heaton, last year's winner for best comedy actress in "Everybody Loves Raymond," about a sportswriter and his family, was nominated as the sharp-tongued wife of the lead character, portrayed by comedian Ray Romano.

Heaton told reporters she was stunned by the nod, but she credited her success in the role to playing a "rare sitcom wife who has her own paranoia and faults and downfalls."

Heaton's rivals will be Calista Flockhart for her title role on the quirky Fox legal series "Ally McBeal," Sarah Jessica Parker for "Sex and the City," Debra Messing in "Will & Grace" and Jane Kaczmarek in "Malcolm in the Middle."

Romano claimed a nomination for best actor in a comedy. The other nominees in that group were Kelsey Grammer for "Frasier," John Lithgow for "3rd Rock From the Sun," which has ended its run on NBC, Eric McCormack from "Will & Grace" and the young Frankie Muniz in the title role of "Malcolm in the Middle."

With Sheen and Gandolfini, the best dramatic actor group includes first-time nominee Rob Lowe as White House official Sam Seaborn in "West Wing;" and past Emmy winners Dennis Franz for ABC cop show "NYPD Blue" and Andre Braugher in "Gideon's Crossing," a medical drama ABC has now canceled.

"The Sopranos" claimed two nominations for best actress in a drama, one for Edie Falco and the other for Lorraine Bracco. Also in the group were last year's winner Sela Ward for ABC's "Once and Again" and two actresses from popular CBS shows—Amy Brenneman for her title role in "Judging Amy" and Marg Helgenberger in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

New grouping

In a new grouping for the highly popular "reality TV" shows, CBS hit "Survivor" was pitted against MTV's "Road Rules: Maximum Velocity Tour," VH1's "Bands on the Run," USA Network's Eco-Challenge: Borneo" and TLC's "Junkyard Wars."

HBO grabbed four of five nominations for best TV movie for "Conspiracy," "For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story," "61*," and "Wit," while Showtime earned the other nod for "Neil Simon's Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

Outstanding mini-series nominees were ABC's "Anne Frank" and "Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows." Other nominees were TNT's "Nuremberg," A&E's "Horatio Hornblower" and Showtime's "Armistead Maupin's Further Tales of the City."

The 53rd Annual Emmy Awards will be broadcast from Los Angeles on CBS on Sept. 16. ABC is a unit of the Walt Disney Co., NBC is a unit of General Electric Corp., CBS is a unit of Viacom Inc., Fox is a unit of News Corp. Ltd., HBO is a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc., and MTV and VH1 are units of Viacom Inc. *Reuters*

Artists honored by city of Manila with Patnubay ng Sining awards

By Nestor U. Torre

LATE last June, the city of Manila honored nine outstanding Filipino artists with its Parangal Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan and other top awards for the year 2001. The annual awards for distinction in the field of arts and culture have been conferred on exceptional arts workers since 1963.

Colorful rites

In colorful rites at Bulwagang Antonio J. Villegas at Manila's City Hall last June 22, Mayor Lito L. Atienza Jr. conferred the Parangal Diwa ng Lahi award on Carmen Guerrero Nakpil.

The laureate comes from a family of achievers and nationalists. Her father, Alfredo Leon Ma. Guerrero, was a doctor and became the first president of MCU, while her mother, Filomena Francisco, was the country's first female pharmacist.

The books Guerrero Nakpil has written are "Woman Enough and Other Essays" (1963), "Questions of Identity" (1973), "The Philippines and the Filipino" (1989), and a novel, "The Rice Conspiracy" (1990).

Awards

She has been honored with the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas by the Unyon ng mga Manunulat ng Pilipinas (1988) and the South East Asian Writer's Award (SEAWRITE) (1990). Also in 1990, she won the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle.

From 1983 to 1986, she was a member of the Unesco General Assembly. From 1984 to 1986, she was the head of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center.

For her part, Ligaya D. Perez was awarded the Gawad Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas. Novelist, poet, editor, columnist, translator and teacher, Perez also wrote, produced and directed a number of religious presentations.

Writing honors

Her writing honors include the Panitik ng Kababaihan in 1987, Presidential Award for Literature in Baler, Aurora Province in 1985, Republic Day Award for Literature in 1977, Fida Trophy for Literature during the celebration of International Women's Year, and the Balagtas Day Poetry Award given by the Institute of National Language in 1972.

In the field of Literature, the Parangal Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan was won by Cirilo Bautista. A professor of poetry and creative writing at De La Salle University, Manila, Bautista has won numerous awards, and has been elevated to the Hall of Fame of the Palanca Awards for Literature.

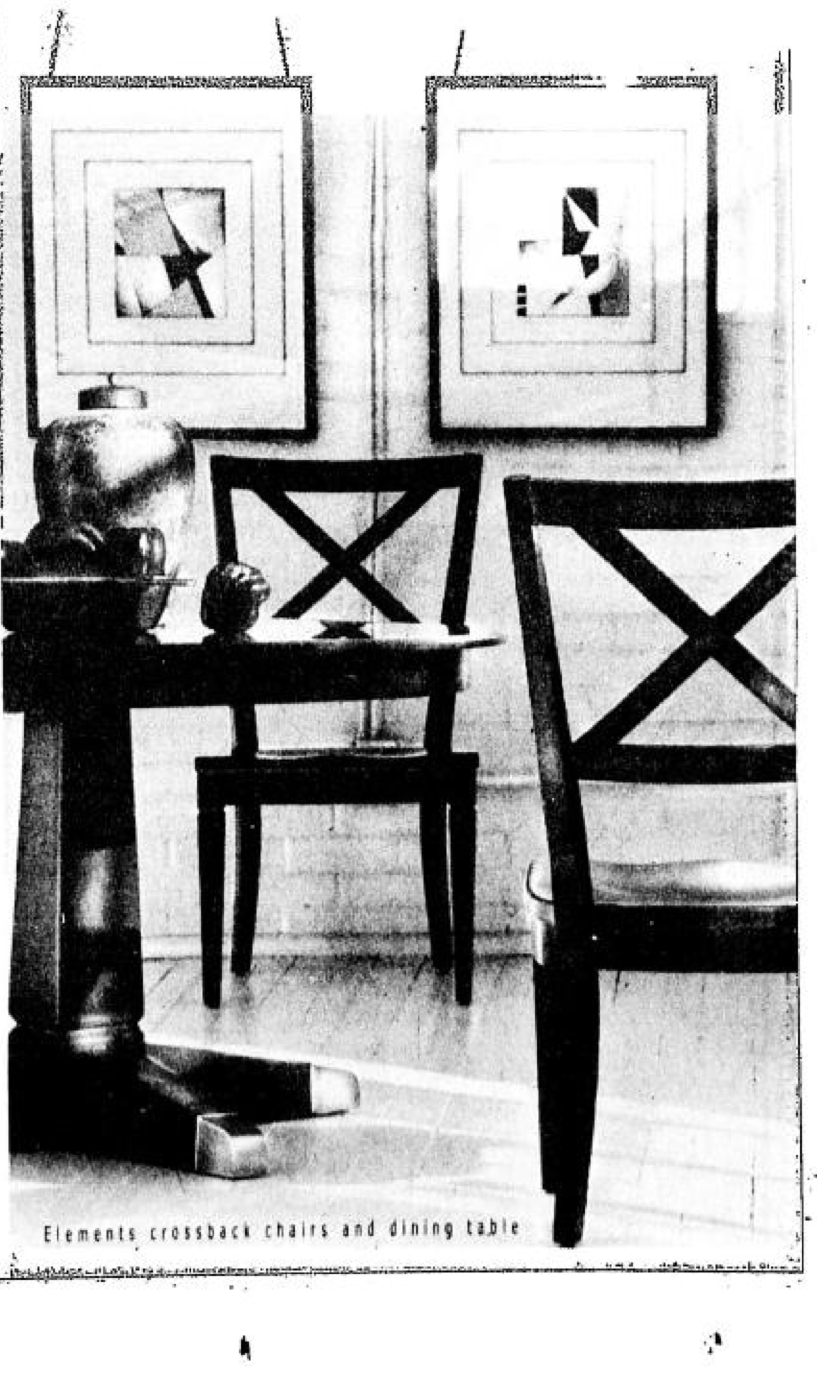
Epic

He has taught not just in the Philippines but also in Japan (Waseda University) and the United States (Ohio State University). In 1998 he won a Centennial Literary Award for his epic, "Sunlight and Broken Stone."

The awards were handed out by Mayor Atienza, Ms Evelina I. Atienza, vice mayor Danilo B. Lacuna and Atty. Esperidion D. Laxa.

(To be continued)

NAKPIL. "Parangal Diwa ng Lahi" awardee.



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'Apocalypse Now Redux' has 49 minutes of never-before-seen footage

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

MARTIN Sheen as Capt. Willard in "Apocalypse Now." AP

NEW YORK—You haven't seen "Apocalypse Now"—yet. Not according to Francis Ford Coppola.

The film you've either loved or hated for the past 22 years isn't really the one Coppola intended to make about the Vietnam War.

Coppola wants you to forget about the movie that won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1979, the one that was nominated for eight Oscars, winning two for cinematography and sound.

Incomplete

It was rushed, incomplete, the victim of compromise, he says.

For him, "Apocalypse Now Redux" is the only version of the film that exists. And he wants it to be the only version that exists for us, as well.

The director added 49 minutes of never-before-seen footage to his story of war and lies, insanity and darkness, and is re-releasing it in theaters.

But more doesn't necessarily equal better. While it's fascinating to see the footage Coppola deleted from the original film, he didn't always improve his master work, and at times, he weakened it.

It's still the same basic story, based on Joseph Conrad's novel "Heart of Darkness." Willard (Martin Sheen), a burned-out Army captain, is sent on a mission to "terminate with extreme prejudice" Col. Kurtz (Marlon Brando), an officer who once appeared destined for greatness but has gone mad and is running a renegade operation in the jungle of Cambodia.

Motley assortment

Joining him on his journey upriver is a motley assortment of Navy men: Chief (Albert Hall), who drives the patrol boat; Chef (Frederic Forrest), a New Orleans cook; Lance (Sam Bottoms), a champion California surfer; and Clean (Laurence Fishburne, who was 14 and credited as "Larry" in the original), a teen-ager from the Bronx.

Just like the first time, their encounters grow stranger and stranger the closer they inch toward Kurtz.

Coppola added:

- More footage from the beach attack scene. We first see Col. Kilgore (Robert Duvall), in all his manic splendor, land on the sand in a helicopter with the words "Death From Above" written on the front.

Kilgore rambles more about surfing, oblivious to the explosions and carnage around him. He's so deranged he's funny, and his magnetism makes him impossible to stop watching.

Later, in a showing of mischief and camaraderie missing from the original, Willard and the crew steal Kilgore's surfboard, prompting him to scour the river, playing a looping recording in which he begs them to return the board. "It was a good board, and I liked it," he reasons.

Extra scenes

These extra scenes help humanize Willard and the crew, but it was already clear that Kilgore is more interested in waves than war; his aerial attack is just a fantastic music video for Wagner's "Die Walkure."

- A second Playboy Bunnies sequence. In the original, they fly away in a helicopter after the troops get out of control at their show.

Here, their helicopter has run out of fuel and landed at a Medevac base along the river. Willard trades fuel for a couple of hours with the Playmates.

It's a strange scene—the women have been stranded for a while and babble incoherently, which doesn't stop the soldiers from objectifying them further. But having just one Playboy scene makes it stand out even more for its surrealism. Because there's just one in the original, the juxtaposition of sex and violence is even more powerful.

- The much talked about French plantation scene. After the boat crosses into Cambodia and Clean is shot to death, the remaining crew members see a French plantation—and its ghostly inhabitants—rise from the mist. They bury Clean, debate politics over dinner and then a French widow (Aurore Clement) seduces Willard.

It's beautiful, eerie and dreamlike, but it sucks the momentum from the film. Tension has been building steadily as the boat winds upriver, especially after entering forbidden territory in Cambodia.

Love scene

The pacing in this segment drags, especially during the prolonged dinner, and Willard's love scene is erotic but languid.

There's no place else Coppola could have placed this scene. Clean is clearly dead—his body is lying in the boat. And right after it's over, the boat reaches Kurtz's compound.

- An extra scene with Kurtz. After his disciples capture Willard and place him in a metal shed, Kurtz reads to him excerpts from a Time magazine article that describes the American position in Vietnam optimistically.

It's another surreal sight - Kurtz sitting on the ground among the native children, who are giggling and playing. It helps us understand Kurtz better and it hammers home Coppola's anti-war—or, as he calls it, "anti-lie"—philosophy.

Despite its flaws, "Apocalypse Now Redux" is worth seeing. Even if Coppola hadn't added a second of footage, but simply remastered the film digitally, it would be worth experiencing this gorgeous film in a theater.

It's too long now, but it's breathtaking from the first frame—to see the napalm explosions on the big screen, and to hear the haunting sound of helicopter propellers as Jim Morrison wails, "This is the end, my only friend, the end."

"Apocalypse Now Redux," a Miramax Films release, runs 197 minutes. *AP*

Two amazing women

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

EVER since I began developing a keener sensitivity to God's presence in my life. I've been told that the key to real, lasting joy is total surrender to the will of the Lord. But this seems more in the realm of prayer than in the life that we need to live in this world.

In control

I mean, whenever you are deep in prayer, it always feels good to tell God that He's in control, that you lift up every aspect of your life to Him, and that you abdicate your own power to His most holy will. But when your prayer time is over and you're back to face the pressing problems of the day, you can very easily forget where God's place is in your life.

Like, how can you believe that God is in control when everything around you is going wrong? Where is God when the bills are piling up, creditors are breaking down your door, your daughter is in a rebellious mood, and the deadline for what you're working on now was last week? To top it all, you don't have anyone to hug you, share your burdens and reassure you that everything will eventually turn out alright?

You hear Christians say, "Faith and worry don't go together. Faith and fear don't go together." Don't these people have mouths to feed and bills to pay? I don't even mean here the tragedies and calamities that sometimes destroy human lives. I just mean the all-too-real struggles and rigors of everyday living.

Opportunities

These thoughts were running circles through my mind a month ago when Bo invited me to join him in Malasiqui and Binmaley in Pangasinan, where he was requested to share his life testimony with a gathering of Christians. (I treasure opportunities like this to see up close and personal how Christians live out their faith. It is in moments like these that I get answers to my questions.)

I met two women—Rose Bataan and Marilyn Campos, pastors of their respective Christian communities. And they are truly amazing women! Somehow they made me confront my inadequacies both as a woman and as a Christian.

Rose is a former Muslim communist commander who used to rove the wilds and villages of Mindanao with her small pack of warriors. She forsook the godless ideology she had embraced for a large part of her adult life when she discovered that the group she had joined and sworn to give her last breath for wasn't the band of committed social reformers that she had hoped could change the wretchedness of her condition. She felt betrayed.

She was converted to Christianity because she was enamored by the gospel of love that it preached. She began as a member of an evangelical church but soon became a committed leader and eventually a pastor of her own congregation.

Spiritual needs

As a pastor, she is not content with pastoring to the spiritual needs of her flock. She has taken it upon herself to develop new pastors for their growing community of believers. These disciples live with her in her home, where she feeds them with food not just for their bodies but for their souls as well.

Strict in her ways and rigid in her faith, she's a stern disciplinarian to her wards. She shares that she punishes those who lack faithfulness and dedication to the work of the Lord.

What was quite amazing was how these disciples cried a river of tears when they eventually graduated from the year-long training to become full-fledged pastors. I was touched by how proud they were that they could now teach what they learned about God from Sister Rose.

On the other hand, Marilyn Campos used to have a rheumatic heart. Her doctors warned her not to get married, as giving birth would surely kill her. She now has six healthy children, born after world-famous evangelist Morris Cerullo was used by God to heal her.

In the early '80s, she went to the Morris Cerullo School of Ministry and in 1985, she travelled to Seoul, Korea to attend the Church Growth Conference given by Dr. Paul Yongicho, the evangelical priest who heads the largest pentecostal church in Asia.

Neighbors

When she returned to her native Pangasinan, she was never the same again. She conducted praise and worship meetings in her home every night. For three years, neighbors stoned her house, annoyed by the ruckus they raised.

She started the Jesus Christian Community Ministry in Binmaley, officially registering it with the SEC in 1987. She had also established the Children's Care and Learning Center the year before.

Her congregation has grown to a thousand members, reaching all over Pangasinan and as far as Nueva Ecija and Misamis Oriental. And she has been invited to speak in foreign lands as well—in Hong Kong, Macau, Beijing, the US and Canada.

There's one thing that really amazes me about Sisters Rose and Marilyn—their joy. You can immediately see that they are very happy. It's the kind of joy that radiates from within. It seems like nothing can faze them. Asked where they get their provisions, the money for their most basic needs like food, clothing and shelter, their reply was: from God.

Honor and glory

Marilyn even told me, "When I pray, I ask God for specific things. Like, I tell him, "God, give me a million pesos. I won't insult Your power by just asking for a thousand. I'm asking You for a million. The more You give me, the more I can use for Your honor and glory!"

There's also joy in the fact that their respective husbands and children are with them in their work, also leaders of their Christian community. Despite their busy schedule working for God, they have healthy marriages and have been able to raise wonderful, God-loving children.

They live simple lives, and they are so at peace and contented. When asked why, they said it was because they had surrendered their lives to God. And they have no reason to fret or worry or be afraid anymore.

"Whatever happens, even when tragedy strikes, we know that God allowed it to happen for a reason. We may not understand what that reason is, but we know that God is never wrong and we just need to trust in Him."

Amusement

These are two truly astonishing women. Had I met them several years back, I'd have questioned their sanity and would have featured them in my TV show with the intent of providing amusement for my viewers at their expense.

Because they are such colorful characters. They dance when they pray and their excess weight dances with them. Their eyes roll, their arms flail, but their smiles reveal the steadfastness of their faith.

As I was going home the following day, I had a light feeling in my heart. I still don't know how to totally surrender my life to God. But that experience in Pangasinan proved to me that it can be done!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Channel 4 gets a makeover and is reintroduced as the National Broadcasting Network

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

IT USED to be that viewers would switch to Channel 4 only for the Olympics or the Asian or SEA Games. But things have changed. From the People's Television Network (PTV), the government station is now being reintroduced as the National Broadcasting Network (NBN) with Mia Concio as Chairwoman and President.

On the forefront of its many changes is their two-hour marathon newscast, "TeleDyaryo." Gani Oro shares centerstage with the dynamic Chino Trinidad.

"With a change in image comes a change in substance," said Cancio, "and with that comes the challenge to do our best. Our vision is to be the news and information channel that truly matters."

Circle of 10 hopefuls

Who will make it to the Circle of 10, a nationwide search that aims to discover fresh faces that will be launched in television and print ads next year?

Come August 15, 40 hopefuls will vie for the 10 slots to comprise the winning circle this year, a project of Rapi Revilla's A-One Entertainment Productions. The judges will be on the lookout for the most interesting facial features, youthful dynamism and the most wholesome and charming personalities.

We met the group at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt and found a very young batch, most of them between 14 to 18 years old. We tried to question how a few of them made it to the finals, since they did not possess the qualities the organizers were looking for, but what the heck, maybe the screening committee also considered "gutsiness" in their selection.

'Little Mermaid' makes another big splash

Sure, it was mega-daughter Kristina Cassandra Concepcion who stole the hearts of the audience the night we caught the re-staging of "The Little Mermaid" at The Meralco Theatre, but the entire production team (led by writer-director Jaime del Mundo) deserves a meritorious rating.

KC effortlessly breathed life and luster into the role of Princess Sapphire, the character who emerged victorious over the lead mermaid role of Jewel (played that night by Dianne de la Fuente) for the heart of Prince Christian (Noel Rayos).

De la Fuente sang her songs very well, reaching her highest notes with ease and grace, but she looked a bit stiff.

We understand the constriction since it's not easy to "swim" and "paddle" when you're actually standing. Rayos on the other hand, lacked the charm of a prince.

Lynn Sherman as the evil Crustacea reminded us of how Glenn Close tackled her Cruella de Ville character in the "Dalmatians" movie but we reckon she should work more on her schemingly authoritative stance.

Carlo Orosa is cast in a major support role in almost every big Trumpets production, and here, we were again treated to his wonderful soaring voice as he played Jewel's tutor-manslave, Nicodemus.

Catch "The Little Mermaid" every weekend until Sept. 2 and see why it's the humans who are making a big splash this time around.

CONCEPCION. Breathed life and luster into her role.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 11 – AUG. 17

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *South Central* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best *Striptease* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A'Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Patricia Arquette* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Cate Blanchett* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Puff and Stuff* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *The Undercover Kid* 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Partridge Family* 9:00 E! Special *Hollywood Moms* 10:00 In Focus *Celebrity Parenthood* 11:00 The Best of 60 Minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night *Flashback* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Divas of Soul* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Rising Sun* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:45 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Gloria Estefan* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Michael Douglas* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:45 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *World Music Awards* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Mile High City* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best Of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:35 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Last Days of Elvis* 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Val Kilmer* 11:30 Extreme Close 12.00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11.00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request *Westlife 2* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Dangerous Intention*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Independent Women the Mega Show Part I*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Let's Play Pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Piano Man* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Amazon* 12:00 Talk Soup

Director Lino Brocka remembered

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Continuation)

AFTER making his landmark movie as an independent filmmaker, "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," Lino did an anthology film, "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa," that added to his credentials as a serious director. But he really came into his own with his next production, Cinema Artists' "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag."

Screenplay

Doy del Mundo had written the screenplay in our scriptwriting class at the Ateneo de Manila Graduate School, so we were very familiar with the material, and knew that it would emerge as a major film. True enough, the movie enjoyed great success not just here but also in international film festivals.

But Lino's star really shone on the international film scene when "Insiang" was selected for the Directors' Fortnight in the 1978 edition of the prestigious Cannes filmfest, where it garnered glowing reviews.

Just one example: Michel Perez wrote in *Le Matin*: "The (film has the) vigor and visual intensity of the neo-realist masters, fused with the admired qualities of American psychological cinema. Result: a melodrama that reminds one of the American films of Buñuel."

Title role

In 1980, Lino followed up at Cannes with "Jaguar," with Phillip Salvador playing the title role. The film was accepted for competition, and had a strong impact on filmfest viewers.

Andrew Sarris wrote in *Village Voice*, "The most pleasant surprise in the festival so far has been Lino Brocka's 'Jaguar,' a socially conscious *film noir* from, of all places, the Philippines, with a stirringly dignified performance by Phillip Salvador as a working class youth who becomes the bodyguard of a spoiled rich boy who's into drugs... Salvador's performance never lets up in its fierce intensity, all the way to the film's shattering finale."

After the festival, "Jaguar" was sold to German television. Later, it was screened commercially in Paris, France.

Small production

Back in the Philippines, Lino directed Nora Aunor in "Bona." This was only a small production, but the Aunor-Brocka collaboration was so creatively productive that the film emerged as one of Lino's best in the '80s, and was screened during the Director's Fortnight at Cannes.

In 1984, Lino was back at Cannes with a new and more socially-committed film, "Kapit sa Patalim.'' The political drama didn't win any prizes at Cannes, but it copped the British Film Institute's award for best film of 1984, along with Chinese director Chen Kaige's "Yellow Earth."

Emerging cinema

The award was very prestigious, so once again, Lino had focused the international spotlight on the emerging cinema of the Philippines.

In 1988, Lino was so well-regarded in Europe that he was able to secure financial backing there for another political drama, "Orapronobis.'' The film was an incisive, outstanding production, but could not be shown in the Philippines.

Still, we were so eager to view Lino's latest film (and one of his most controversial productions) that, when we attended the Moscow Film Festival and learned that the movie was at the festival's film market, we were able to arrange a private screening, even if only on videotape.

We then wrote about what we had seen, to make Filipino viewers realize what they were missing, just because some officials thought that Lino's latest political drama was too hot to handle.

(To be concluded)

NORA Aunor came up with a quietly powerful portrayal of a movie fan in Brocka's "Bona."

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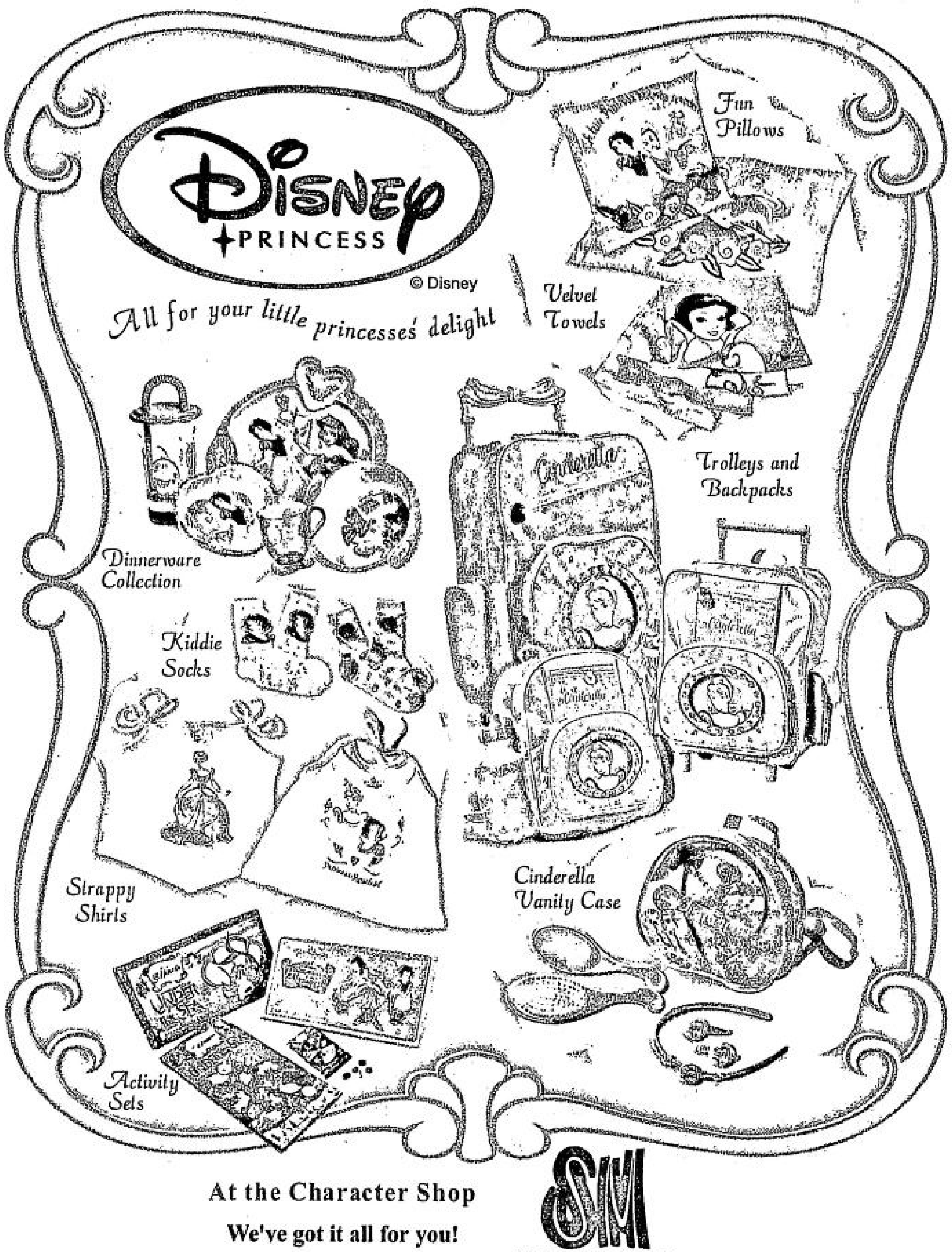

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Pilita and Dulce perform Aug. 15

MONTAGE

PILITA Corrales, Dulce, Lance Raymundo and Leonard Obal will perform in "Enchanted Hearts" on Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Hotel ballroom. The concert is directed by Angie Magbanua and produced by Gregg Lloren of Studio Quest Production.

Tickets are available at Ticketnet and Ticketworld.

Powerdance concert

Douglas Nierras Powerdance marks its 13th anniversary with a two-night dance concert "Turn up the QUIET...Just Dance" on Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. and on Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater.

To be featured are the dance artists of the Douglas Nierras Powerdance together with the Bayanihan Philippine Folk Dance Company and the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

The dance concert will also feature "Gabaq-an," which is a collaborative effort of Nierras with the Bayanihan, the Madrigals and the Powerdance.

Call 633-6417.

Kuh in repeat performance

Kuh Ledesma returns to her original home—the Music Museum—for the repeat of her "Kuh Sings Streisand" concert held at the Manila Hotel in June. The repeat goes onstage on Aug. 24 and 25 at 9 p.m. Kuh will be joined by Chad Borja, Side A's Joey Generoso and Regine Velasquez.

To celebrate her homecoming of sorts, Kuh will roll out a repertoire of classic Streisand hits like "Evergreen," "The Way We Were," "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore" and "People."

Call 712-0635.

'Planet of the Apes' premiere

MTV Philippines presents an exclusive screening of "Planet of the Apes" on Aug. 13 at the Glorietta 4's Cinema 6.

You can win two free tickets and "Planet of the Apes" premium items by answering this question: "Planet of the Apes" is directed by: a.) Tim Burton b.) Erap c.) April Boy or d.) Ai Ai de las Alas. Fax your answer to 848-1319 or leave your answer with the MTV hotline at 882-1866.

Robbie Williams in England

Robbie Williams' concert at the Manchester Arena in England will be telecast on HBO on Aug. 13 at 10:30 p.m. with replays on Aug. 21 at 2 p.m., Aug 26 at 10:30 a.m. and Aug 29 at 4 p.m.

The concert features his chart-topping hits like "Angels, "Let Me Entertain You," "Rock DJ" and the duet "Kids" with Kylie Minogue.

Inventions on NGC

Get ready for a smorgasbord of inventions in Episode 59 of "Tomorrow's World" on National Geographic Channel on Aug. 16 at 9:30 p.m.

Featured in the program are "Organ Transplant," a controversial treatment giving organ transplant patients a chance to live longer; "Airships," the world's biggest airship now being built to the length of four jumbo jets and the height of a 27-storey building; "Fire Fan," a technique to clear smoke; "Virtual Reality Horse," using virtual reality to help elderly people overcome back problems; and "Snow Detector," using radiation from dead stars to improve forecasts of water supply derived from snow.

LEDESMA. A homecoming of sorts.

'Soong Sisters' on cable

"The Soong Sisters," the film that won six awards at the 17th Hong Kong Film Awards including best actress, best art director, and best cinematography will air on the Star Mandarin channel on Aug. 30 at 9 p.m.

The story follows the life of the Soong sisters and their role in a series of historical events from Sun Yat Sen's rise to power to Chiang Kai Shek's reign. The film stars Michelle Yeoh, Maggie Cheung, Vivian Wu, Winston Chiao and Jiang Wen.

Search for campus divas

DWRR 101.9 FM recently announced its search for the "Campus Diva," a singing competition which aims to discover talented singers in colleges and universities in the city. The search began on Aug. 1 and will run until the elimination round on Sept. 30. More than 20 schools have already confirmed their participation in the contest.

Each school will hold its own pre-screening to select contestants for the elimination round. The grand finals will be held on Oct. 6 at the Meralco Theater. The grand prize winner gets P50,000, the runner-up, P30,000 and the third prize winner, P20,000.

Imago mall tour

Imago, the latest local alternative band to join Viva Records, goes on a mall tour to promote its debut album "Probably But Not Most Definitely."

The group will perform at Robinsons Novaliches today, SM Sucat tomorrow, SM Iloilo on Aug. 17, SM Cebu on Aug. 18, and SM Fairview on Aug. 25.

Imago's album is produced by Bob Aves and Grace Nono and contains 17 original tracks including the singles "Rainsong" and "Alay. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

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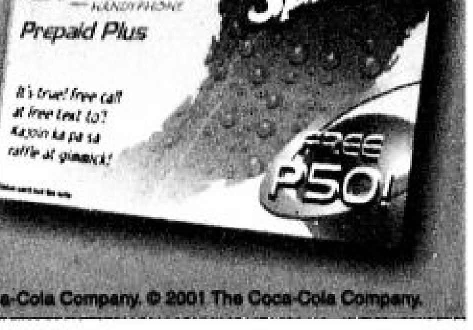
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Di ko na kailangan ang costume!

Junior
INQUIRER

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WWW.INQ7.NET

Carrots in the Corridors

Ack, the kids of St. Joseph's College QC have been transformed into...food!

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

...MAKE that really healthy food. To celebrate Nutrition Month, students of St. Joseph's College of Quezon City had themselves a one-of-a-kind costume parade on July 31. Kids from kindergarten to Grade 2 came out fully-decked as fruits, veggies and other good-for-you goodies, all from the basic food groups.

For starters, we saw a lot of fruits. The activity after all is called "Fruits on Parade." Bananas were all over the place. So were mangoes, apples and strawberries.

Cartolina cut in the shape of the fruits seemed to be the material of choice, though some kids drew or colored the fruits on sheets of Manila paper.

Other kids had their costumes sewn. There was a little girl who stuffed herself inside a poofy strawberry suit and a first-grade boy who came dressed

Carrots/p.4

IT'S THE AMAZING X-RAY BOX! Look, you can even see what fruits this healthy kid had for breakfast, hehe.

VAL HANDUMON

WORLD SCOPE

PK-TA Z-0002-4

Saving the animals

RESIDENTS of the village of Trzesn near the southern town of Sandomierz take animals to safety after their home was flooded when the Vistula River broke the dikes. The high waters of the Vistula has been moving north and flooding many villages. ***AP***

Shocking Development

A VIDEO game controller which shocks the user if his character suffers damage on the screen is shown in this undated handout photo. The must-have gift for video game fanatics this Christmas could well be a gadget that momentarily paralyzes your hands when your character takes a hit in cyberspace. Mad Catz, the California-based company devising "Bioforce," thinks it has a winner, and some people who tried it at a video game convention think it's great. ***AP***

Sandomierz, Poland
Santee, USA
Paris, France
Muncie, USA
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Hooray for Lance!

CANCER survivor Lance Armstrong of the United States of America rides down the Champs Elysees with his teammates Georges Hincapie and Tyler Hamilton after he won the grueling Tour de France cycling race. "It's one of the most beautiful, most powerful feelings," he said. "I love my job." Armstrong is the fifth person to win the tour in three consecutive years. ***AP***

Skycar

VISITORS check out a prototype of the Moller Skycar M200M on display at the Big Boy Toys exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. The Moller Skycar, developed by US space agency Nasa, will have the capabilities of a helicopter and the speed of an airplane. ***AP***

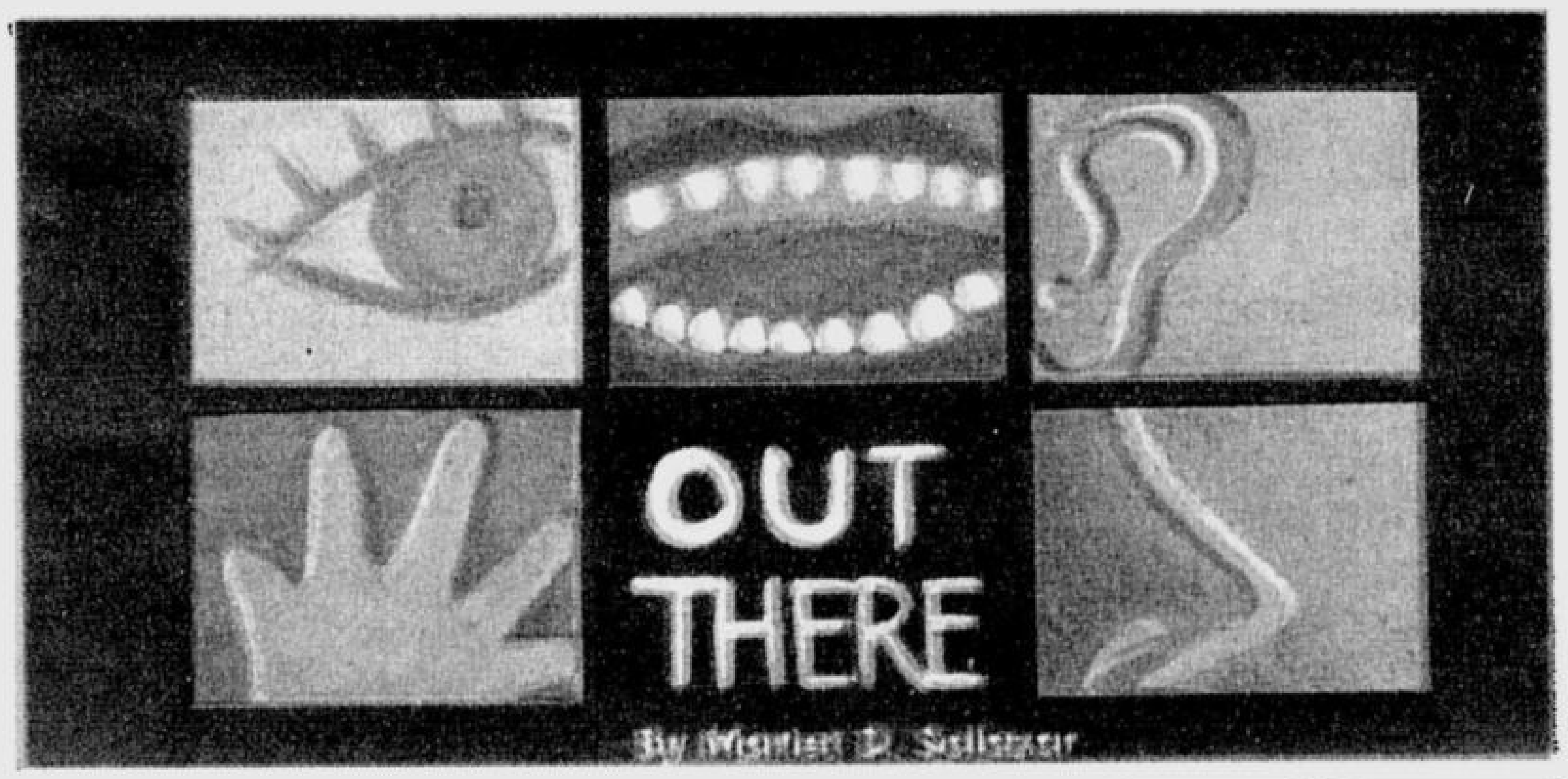
Garfield creator honored

GARFIELD creator, Jim Davis, pauses after drawing the cartoon character in his Indiana office. Davis is among seven people the Indiana Historical Society honored at its third annual Living Legends Gala. ***AP***

Contests

STORY WRITING. Do you love to weave magical, fantastic stories? Here's your chance to display your writing prowess and help save our environment too. The RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan story writing contest is now on. It is a nationwide short story writing contest on environmental conservation, which aims to create awareness among the youth on the value of love and respect for earth's natural resources. It is open to all elementary students and it has two segments: Segment A for Grades 1-4 and Segment B for Grades 5-7. Students may submit one entry written in either English or Filipino along with the entry form, which you can get from all Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. branches all over the country, schools and Department of Education, Culture and Sports offices. Deadline of submission of entries is on Nov. 16. For more important info, call the RCBC Corporate Communications Department at 894-9479, 878-3344, or 894-9000 local 2711 and 2730.

KAYA MO KID! Young artists, this one's worthy of your artistic mastery. Jollibee, together with DECS, Ilustrador ng Kabataan, PET Plans and Faber-Castell, is holding the "Kaya Mong Magbigay-saya Kid!" Mixed Media Art Contest. Open to elementary students, the contest is divided to two categories: Category A (Grades 3-4) and Category B (Grades 5-7). Schools can send more than one entry for each category. The artwork should be done on a 20x30-inch illustration board. You can use at least three of the different media such as: pencil, charcoal, watercolor, oil, crayons, color pencils, marker, paper cutouts, clay, fabric, buttons, yarn, etc. And don't forget to include a 100-word handwritten or typed explanation written in Filipino, paste it at the back of the illustration board. Submit your entries to the nearest Jollibee store with an accomplished Contestant Application Form signed by your school principal. Hurry deadline is on Aug. 17! Don't forget to wrap your artworks with plastic cover to prevent damage.



Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

WANTED PERFORMERS! The Jollibee Kids Workshop Talent Circle is now looking for kids 13 years old and below who love to perform onstage. If you think you have what it takes call up the following branches for audition:

- **Acting and singing**: Jollibee-Kalookan LRT at 361-7850, 361-7873, look for Lani Carandang. Or Jollibee Royal Family Mall, 984-5398 to 99 look for Pearl Lacanlale.
- **Drums and bugle**: Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1 at 645-5716, 645-0553, look for Cindy Cruz
- **Drums and lyre**: Jollibee Grand Central at 363-5653, 363-5502, look for Jennifer Chua
- **Band performers**: Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall at 681-5132, 681-7320, look for Rian Torrefranca. Or call Greenwich Grand Central at 363-5401, look for Cheryl Alferez

Workshops

CALLING YOUNG WRITERS. Learn how to write stories for kids from children's book author Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz. There will be a free seminar at Powerbooks in Arnaiz Avenue Makati City today at 3 p.m. You can call 844-4455 or sign up at the customer service desk for reservations.

FREE LEARNING CAMP. Kids ages 1 ½ to 5 ½ are invited to join the Free Learning Camp at Shangri-La. The activities include storytelling, arts and crafts, computer discovery and experiments. The fun is until Aug. 25. For registration and other info call up 636-1227 or 631-9759. Or you can drop by the Unit 515, 5/L, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

FOR YOUNG ARTISTS. Escuela sa Museo is holding a number of workshops to further hone your skills in drawing. There will be Basic Drawing workshop for kids 10-13 years old. It will be held on Aug. 18-Sept. 15 every Saturday at 2 p.m. Facilitators are Yasmin Sison and Mariano Ching. For more details call up Tonito Gonzalez at 812-1191 to 97 local 130. You may also visit Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Activities

SHARING AT MIRIAM. Kids from Miriam College Child Study Center invited the Grade 1 students of Balara Elementary School for a day of fun and sharing. The CSC preschoolers presented a short program and played games with the students of Balara. They also shared food and gave gift packs to their visitors. Love Sharing Day is an annual activity at Miriam College. Hooray to all the students of CSC and Balara Elementary School!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
100 WINNERS OF THE
Hello Kitty cafe LEMONMAZE CONTEST

Janice Ralar
Vixen Ann Borja
Christine Ngo
Katie Abesamis
Paula Lantin
Armida Gavino
Katrina Villar
Gayle Albano
Jesse Talaboc
Manuel Sia
Benjamin Co
Nancy Cabusas
Jessica Gaspar
Nicola de Vera
Kara Bea
Lorina Tan
Frances Yu
Micah Vergara
Julie Ann White
Daniella Ang
Magret Jader
Nikki Reyes
Dia Marini Bazar
Noelle Estrada
Jerome Bernardo
Shielame Guadayo
Verona Loberiza
Tara Danas
Chrizel Cornejo
Nathania Ariton
Mirjana Faller
Daphna Lea Chan
Starlene Barona
Hernina Joy Cruz
Liezl Suguitan
Jeramia Inocencio
Keisha Ann Lao
Arabella Mendoza
Mary Grace Nagal
Syndiana Obiler
Paolo Bustamante
Geraldine de Guzman
Eloisa Francesca Umali
Arvieleen Ventenilla
Francine Ysabel Sabado
Pearl Margarethe Diaz
Anna Graziella Barreno
Leumee Patrizia Dulay
Katreen Anne Reyes
Sarah Angelica Oxales
Carla Angela Eugenio
Kristine Camille Valenzuela
Patricia Beatrice Pascua
Mary Ann Martha Jordan
Kimberly Danielle Altuna
Monica Lualhati
Krisha Stephanie Castro
Mary Renz Salomon
Joyce Anne Villamin
Marian Kay Yambao
Lizbeth de Guzman
Shing Takorlama
Jordana Argamosa
Jeimee Alledo
Aileen Dometila
Jessica Trasporte
Gladys Lauren Dy
Patricia Sundiang
Margaret Luna
Alexa Cancio
Hannah Gonzalez
Camille Alcara
Averyl Narvasa
Jonah Caagbay
Nicole Poneles
Francesca Peralta
Crissia Mae Tria
Nina Suzette Lim
Claire Cororaton
Regina Estacio
Kristine Velasco
Nikki Paula Mendoza
Kimberly Alcantera
Gemilyn Krizza Go
Joyce Kimberly Sy
Angelique Castaneda
Jhereme Khyle Yao
Charmaine Anne Sy
Karina Carla Tapar
Isabel Crystal Fajardo
Karla Evans Daquioag
Gracy-An Otacan
Celina Gabrielle Arb
Earlene Gayle Ang
Ma. Elisse Campos
Trisha Ysabel Tangco
Inen Elizele Odigie
Dominique Autentico
Mariel Denise Arcinas
Stephanie Joyce Ang

Cafe Burger 'n Egg
Hello Kitty cafe
3/F Building B, SM Megamall
2/F Main Bldg., SM North Edsa

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LET'S PARTY!!!

All 100 LEMONMAZE WINNERS are invited to join a WORKSHOP PARTY on August 18, 2001, Saturday, 10:30 am-12:00 nn at HELLO KITTY CAFE SM North Edsa, 2/F Main Building. Please bring your ID.

There will be lots of fun and surprises!!!

SEE YOU THERE!

RSVP: Kristine 726-9076 loc. 721

Winners may claim their Hello Kitty Craft Kit at the Workshop Party or at Hello Kitty Cafe SM North Edsa until October 6, 2001. Please bring your ID when claiming your prize.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A-3-337 Series of 2001

Carrots in the Corridors

(from page 1)

as a peeled banana (you gotta see it to believe it).

A few more were dressed not as fruits, but as "fruit fairies." First-grader Julienne Claire Gregorio glided down the pathways in a red, red gown, which was as red as the apples in her silver crown.

One of our favorites was the costume of 6-year-old Edgardo de Dios. Wrapped from head to foot in cardboard, Ed ambled along as the most unique-looking pineapple. For the "eyes" of the pineapple, painted sponges were pinned to Ed's costume.

Pechay boys and pumpkin girls

Not to be outdone were the vegetables. We saw carrots of all shapes and sizes, including 8-year-old Elizabeth Nicole Cruz' "carrot tube." Using cardboard, Nicole's mom made a tube not unlike what you see in the middle of a tissue roll, except that this one was big enough for Nicole to fit in.

Nicole then pasted the orange crepe paper on the tube herself. Giggling as she struggled to hold up her costume, Nicole told us, "Carrots are my favorite, I think they really taste good."

A number of boys strutted their green leafy stuff as stalks of pechay while some girls went their rolly-polly way as pumpkins. As they went along they chanted, "Go! Grow! Glow!"

Then suddenly, in the middle of the chants, someone who looked like a superhero zipped past us. It was 8-year-old Reyner John Balquin as...pam-pam-pam...The Caped Eggplant.

"I enjoy wearing costumes," said the eggplant, er, kid in the shiny blue cape. No surprise, Reyner enjoys eating eggplant too, especially when it's "fried with egg."

Me hungry!

Speaking of eggs, there were a few kids parading as cardboard fried eggs as well as the feathered chickens who lay them. Walking milk cartons were joined by a strolling wedge of cheese, while a ham sandwich ran ahead of a basket of pan de sal. There were also kids garbed as fishes from the sea, and even a lone lobster.

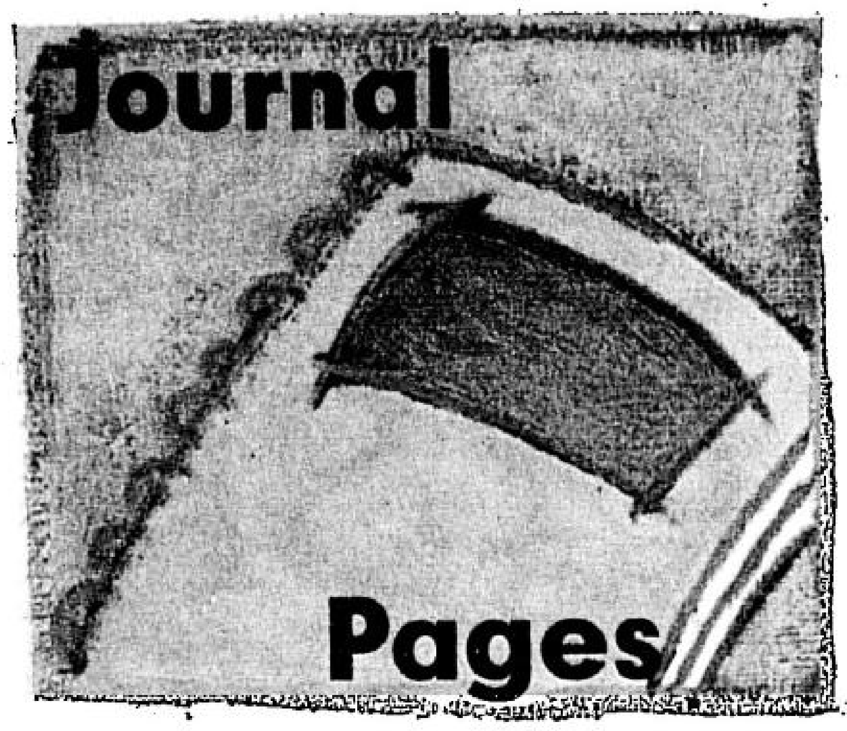
At then end of the parade, the kids were cheerful and chatty but also, as one student pointed out, "very, very hungry!"

Who could blame them? A parade like theirs would have made anyone hungry. At the same time it makes everyone see how much fun the right kind of food can be. ***With a report by Stephanie Ferrer***

Photos by VAL HANDUMON

FRUIT SALAD! Sweet things are a-coming. Check out the cute "corn-y" outfit.

GREETINGS. My name is King Carrot.



Taught by Badminton

By Chris Lacdao
Makati City

WHEN summer vacation was about to start, I really did not want school to end. I did not think that summer 2001 would be fun; but now, I have proven myself wrong. This past summer taught me one of the best lessons I have ever learned.

I had a whole lot of activities set up to keep me busy all summer long. One of them was a badminton sports clinic. I had second thoughts about joining this. I wasn't sure if I wanted to, but there was this voice inside me that made me join. . .and I did.

I never really liked badminton, maybe because I was never good at it or maybe it's because I'd rather write than play. However, like Julius Caesar said: "I came, I saw, I conquered."

I came to the badminton clinic. I saw a lot of people. I didn't know most of them.

Slowly, I made friends. We talked about anything under the sun and simply enjoyed each other's company.

Then I realized why I dreaded badminton so much. I used to take lessons with a trainer and I enjoyed it. But it was mostly just the trainer and me.

Now, I had friends. We all enjoyed playing the sport; we did not care much about winning or losing, either. We just wanted to have fun.

At the badminton clinic, we had this "mini-tournament" where we were divided into two groups. I was separated from my little group of friends. It did not feel right but I had to live with it. To each his or her own. I won. I lost. But I still had a great time.

My team lost in the end, but to me, it didn't matter. I learned my greatest summer lesson.

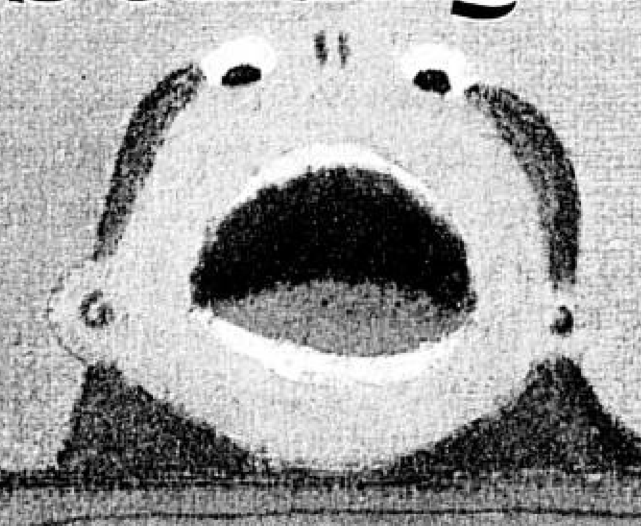
My summer lesson: I learned that the game, or life, is not about winning or losing. It's about accepting who you are, appreciating the good points and embracing the bad.

It's about climbing mountains, reaching the summit, falling and getting up on your feet. It's about finding your dream and doing something about it. It's about loving what you do and giving your best shot.

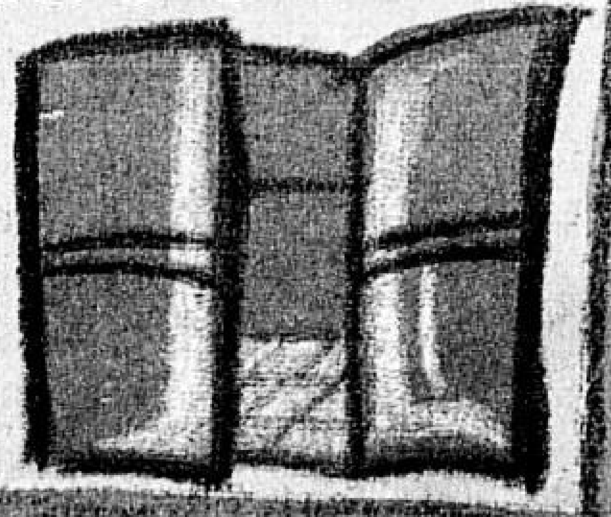
Thanks to everyone. You really made my summer worth it.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



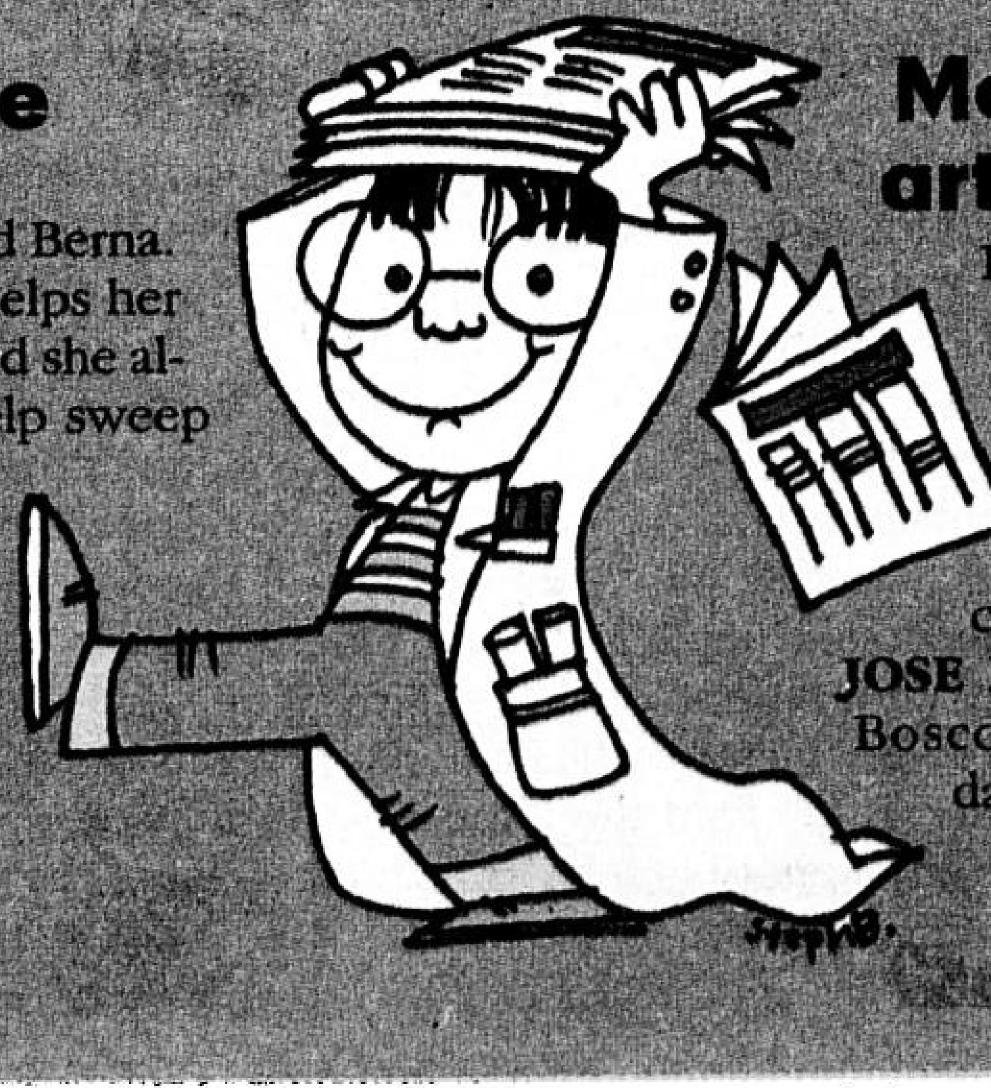
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Cool Classmate

DEAR Editor,

I have a classmate named Berna. She is so kind to me. She helps her mother clean their house and she always wakes up early to help sweep their backyard clean. Sometimes when I forget my *baon*, Berna shares her food with me. I'm so thankful to have a friend like Berna.—**EUNICE SAGUM**, 9, San Pedro, Laguna.



More science articles, please

DEAR Editor,

I love JI so much. I think I have a collection of it. I use JI to get science articles for my science news assignments in school. Please include more science articles.—**JOSE MIKHAIL CUBOL**, 12, Don Bosco Technical College, Mandaluyong City

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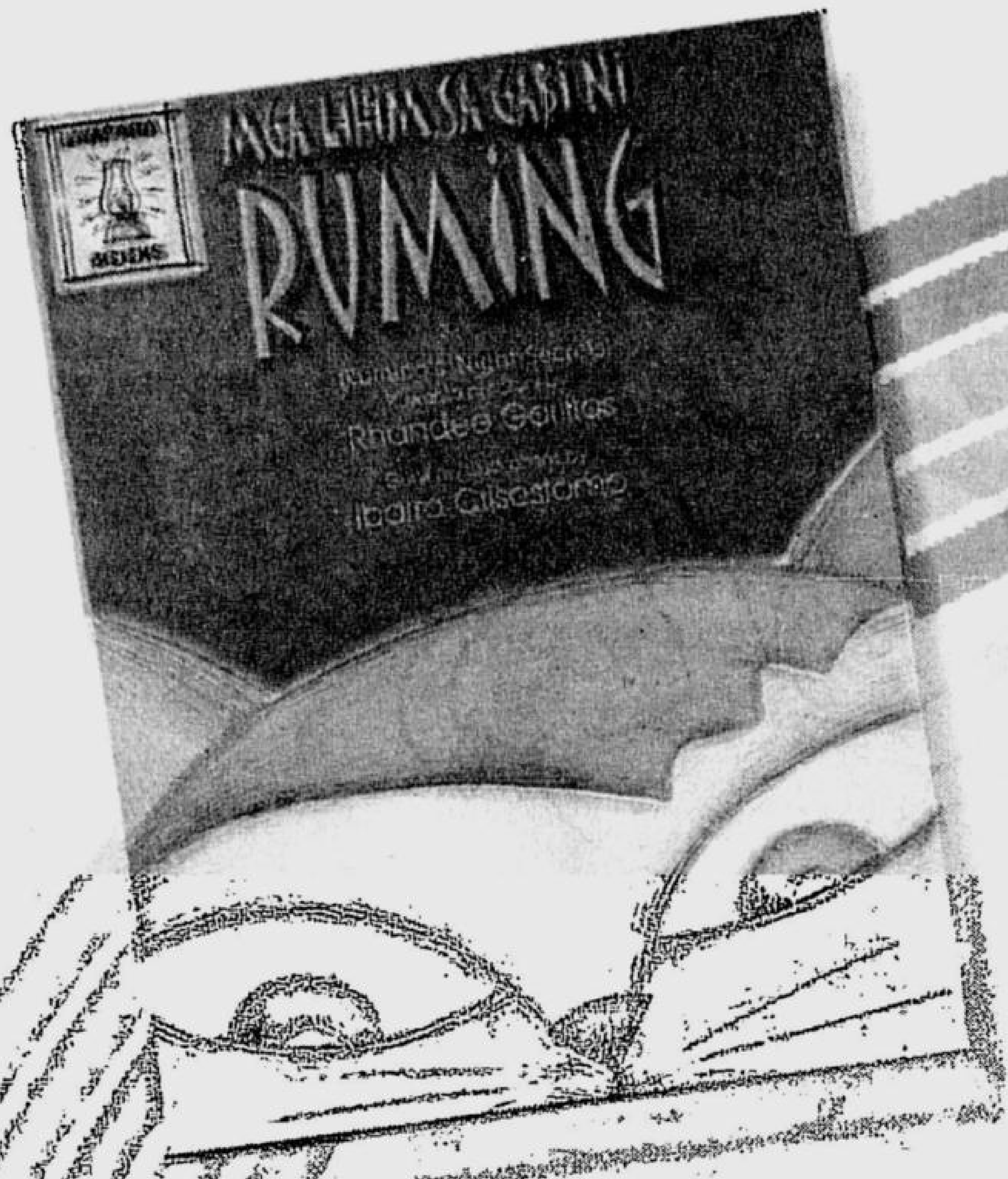
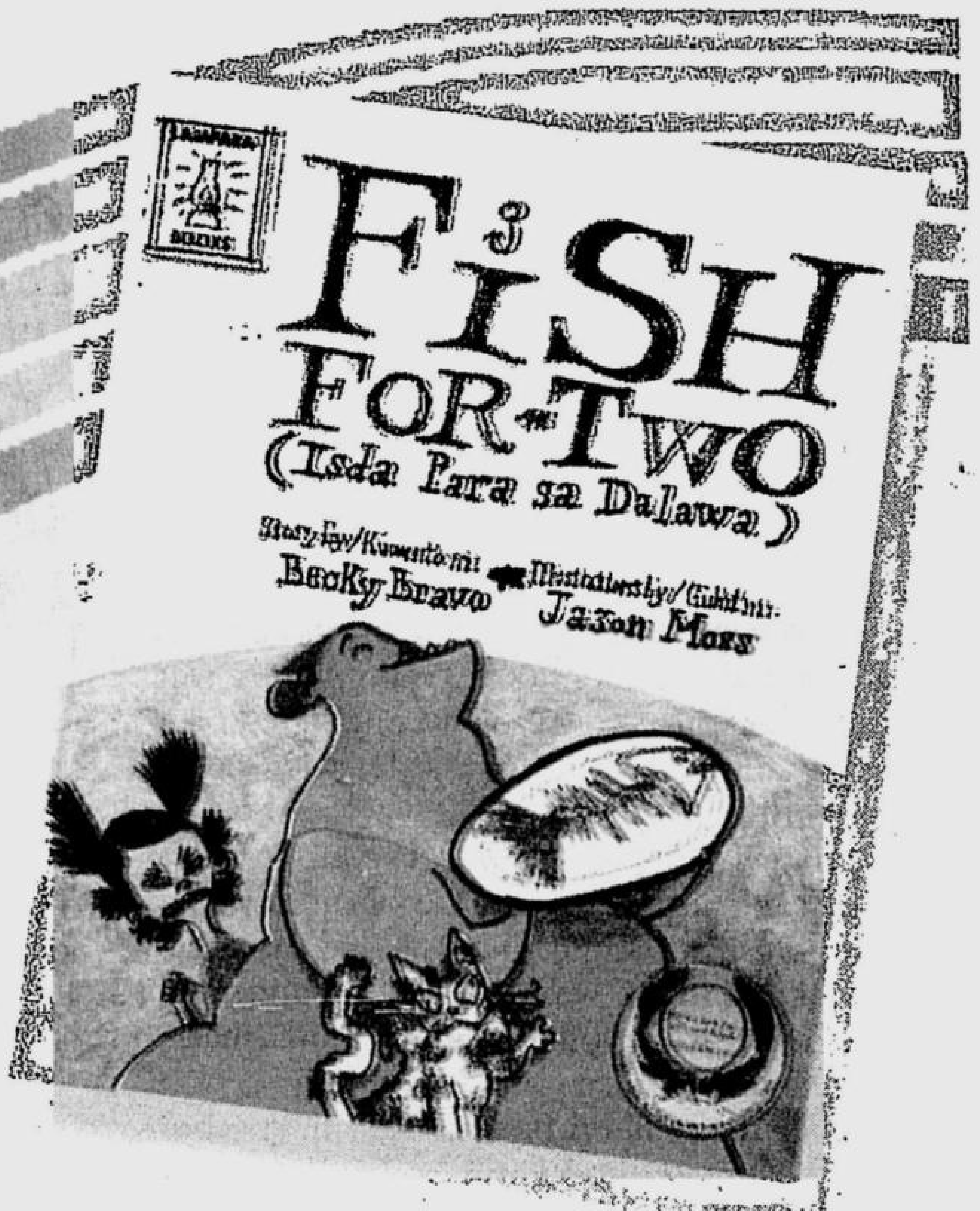
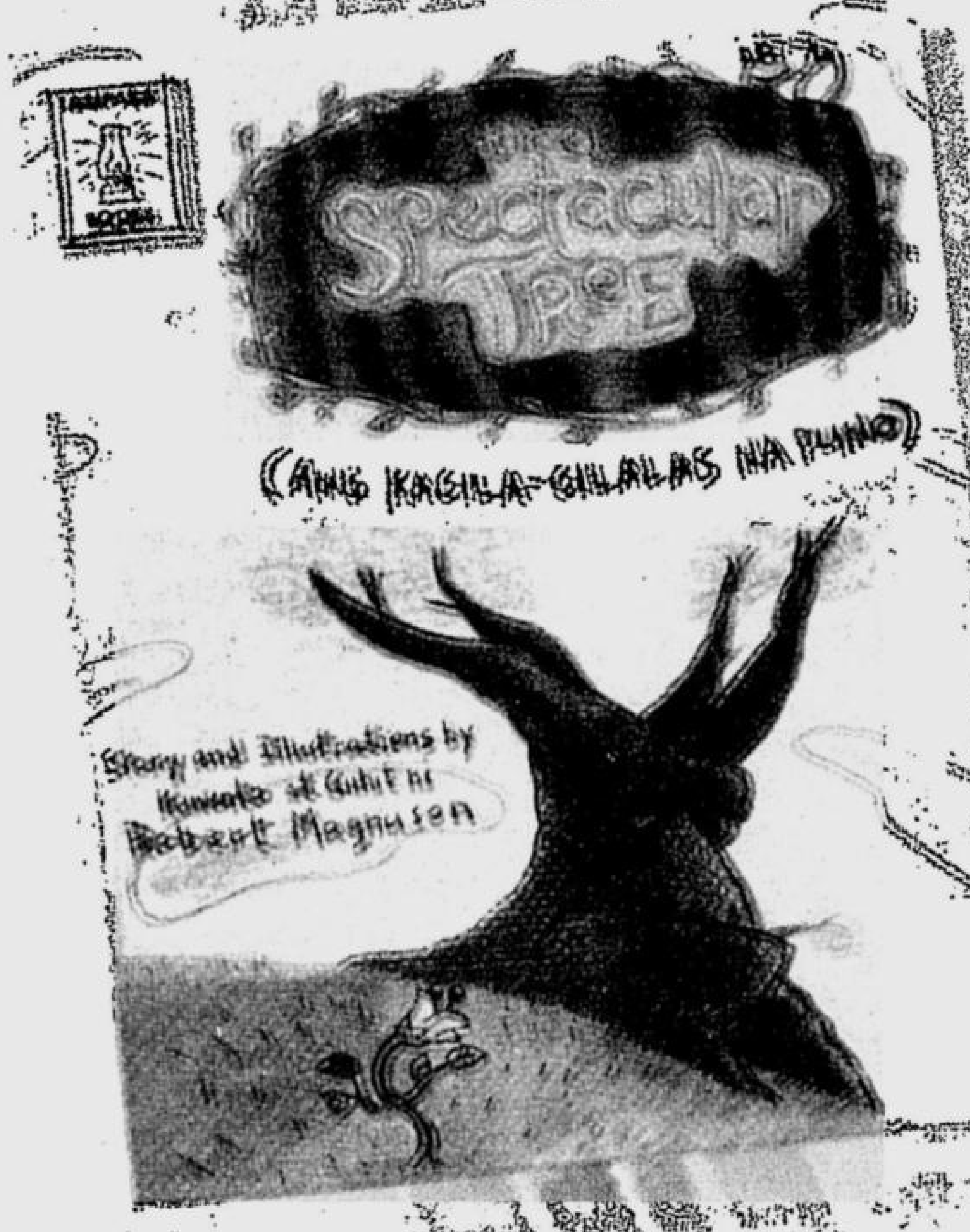
Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS


LAMPARA BOOKS
MGA LIHIM SA GABI NI
RUMING
Rhandee Garlitos
Ibarra Crisostomo


LAMPARA BOOKS
FISH FOR-TWO
(Isda Para sa Dalawa)
Story by/Kuwento ni Becky Bravo
Illustrations by/Guhit ni Jason Moss

Two Cats and a Tree


LAMPARA BOOKS
The Spectacular Tree
(ANG KAGILA-GILALAS NA PUNO)
Story and Illustrations by
Kuwento at Guhit ni
Robert Magnuson

WOW! I had such a great time during last month's National Children's Book Day celebration. There were so many new books! Also, there was less danger of me being stepped on by mothers and kids and writers and illustrators. I hitched a ride in the handbag of "the real Shirley." She's the wife of Robert Magnuson, the creator of "Shirley's Pets."

We'll start with some new titles by a new publisher, called Lampara Books.

In "Fish for Two," a story written by Becky Bravo and illustrated by Jason Moss, a young girl earns the dogged admiration and loyalty of a scraggly stray cat. Well, I say the cat couldn't help it because the girl, called Clara, ate fish everyday and of course smelled like one.

Find out how Clara—who tried to give away the cat to a Siopao Man—eventually learned to like her feline friend. One of JI's favorite illustrators, Jason Moss, does the book's hilarious illustrations.

"Fish for Two," won the Short Story for Children category of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Prize for Literature last year.

And as long as we're talking about cats, here's another cat story by Rhandee Garlitos. "Mga Lihim sa Gabi ni Ruming" is a story about a cat who goes away at night to eat fishballs, play and gallivant with her friends. You'll love Ibarra Crisostomo's illustrations of the adventures of this adventurous cat.

Last, but not the least is "The Spectacular Tree" which is written and illustrated by Robert Magnuson. If you've gone in the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, you'll recognize the characters in this enchanting tale.

A tiny plant feels a bit insecure surrounded by so many giant acacia trees along University Avenue. An old tree beside him even tells him he'll never make it and will one day just be blown away by the wind.

But a terrible storm tests the plant's will and in the end he's a hero and finds himself—in a manner of speaking—on top of the world.

Check out these wonderful books in all branches of the National Bookstore.

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

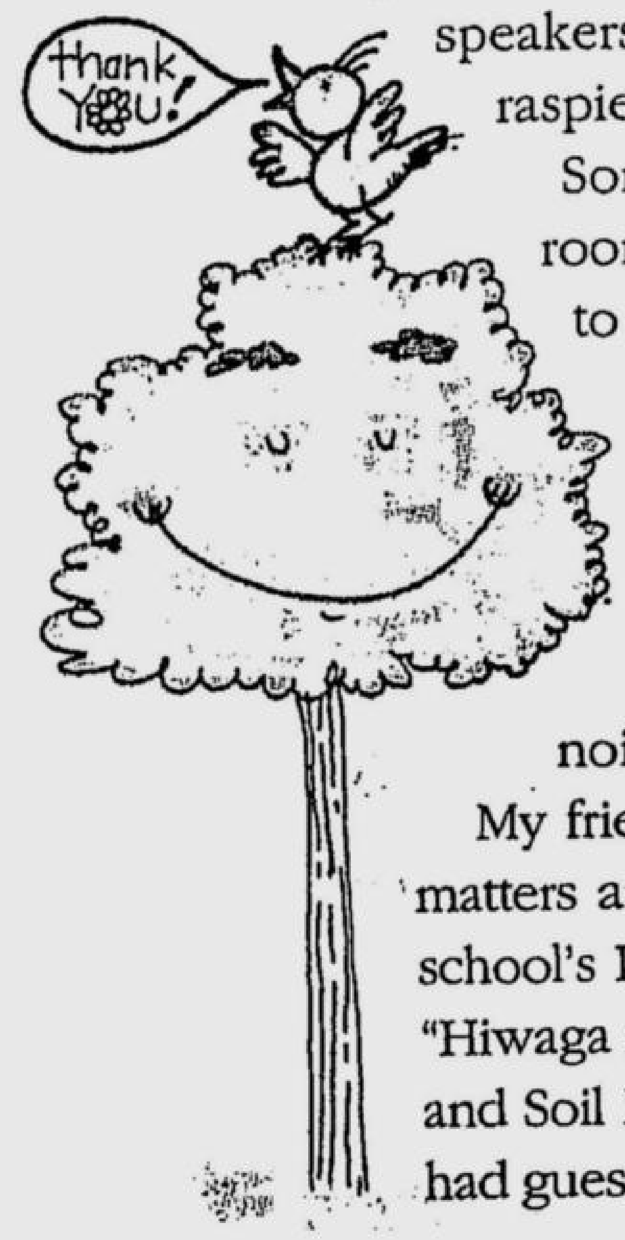
Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

A Green Week

*JI Correspondent **Gabriel Martin N. Doller** investigates the commotion in Ateneo Grade School during its Environment Week*

GREEN trees. Green trashcans. Green signs, banners and flags. Green shirts. Green handkerchiefs. Was this the current fashion? Partly so. It was Environment Week once again at the Ateneo de Manila Grade School.

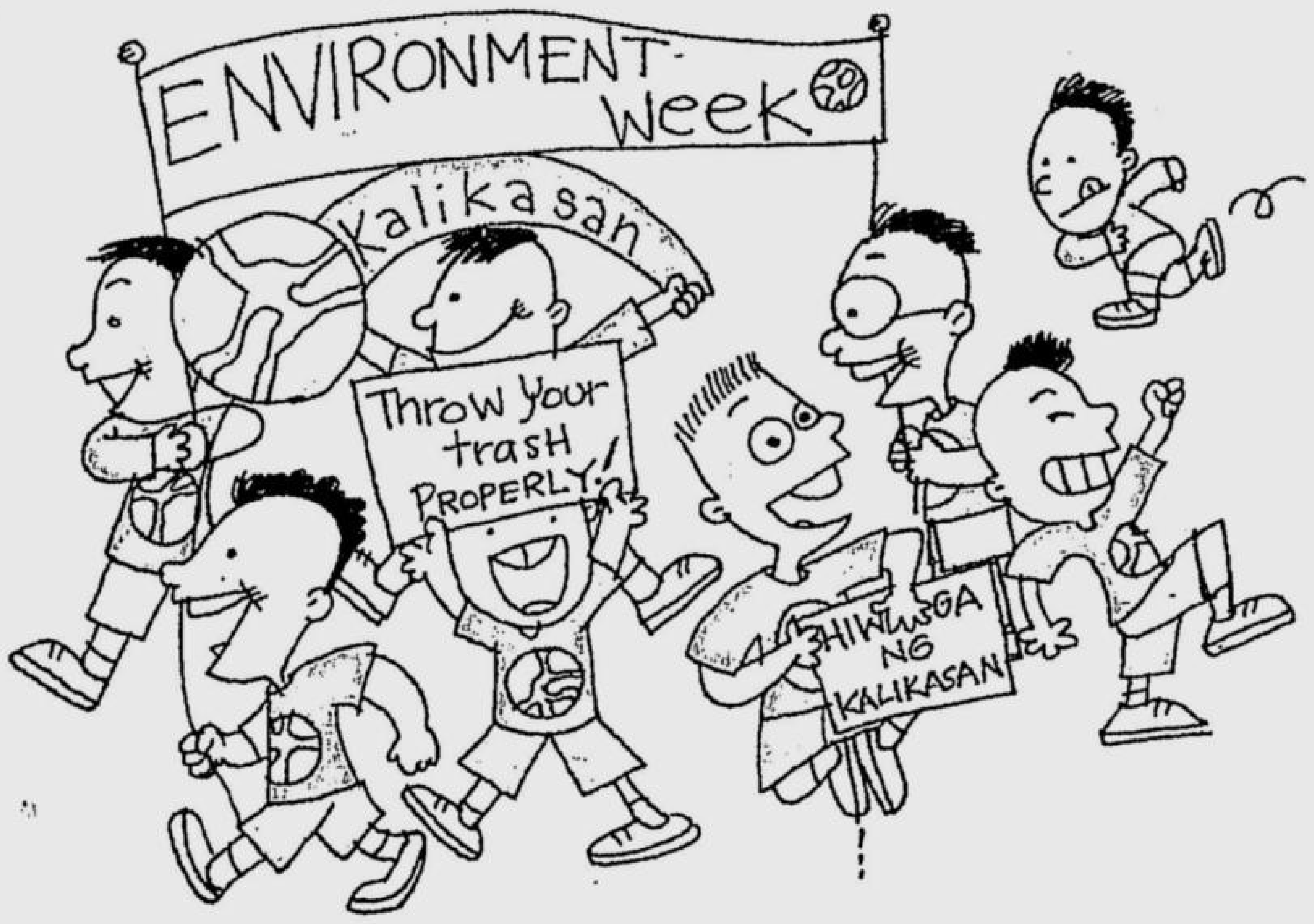
A commotion erupted when the Science Task Force opened the celebrations with their creative voice-play. For a while, it sounded like Captain Planet was speaking to us from the loud speakers, his voice only enhanced with a raspier tone and a thicker accent.



Some students went from room to room telling other students about how to throw their trash properly.

Later on, Grade 7 students presented the "Magnum Silentium" or the Great Silence. It was simple really, we all had to be quiet to appreciate silence and learn all about noise pollution.

My friends and I went on to more serious matters and attended the science talks at our school's Irwin Theater. There were topics like "Hiwaga ng Kalikasan" for Grade 3 and "Water and Soil Management" for Grades 4-7 and we had guest speakers from all over the country.



On the last day of Environment Week our new Headmaster, Fr. Jose Moises T. Fermin, S.J., led us in reciting the "Panunumpa sa Kalikasan" and we all made an oath to protect our environment in thought, word and deed.

Silently, I promised to myself to help conserve our resources. Then I realized I was currently overusing paper in my writing. Oops! There goes my oath!

There are so many problems affecting our environment. I learned that Environment Week is not all fun and games. We were actually talking about the fate of the human race. This all depends on how we treat our environment.

We can help solve these problems only if we each do our share and work together: step by step, leap by leap, house to house, town to town, city to city, nation to nation, world to world.

"Butchik the Wonder Boy"

WHAT happens when you have Dennis the Menace, the little rascals and Dexter from Dexter's Lab all rolled out into one? The result is a totally happy-go-lucky, smart kid with a positive attitude towards life. He's cute, witty and likes to experiment with new things and discover new ideas. His name is Butchik, the newest kid-sensation who'll surely rock your world and turn it upside down with his funny antics and lovable traits.

SARAP JellYace, KASI JellYace!
JellYace
Buko
Mango

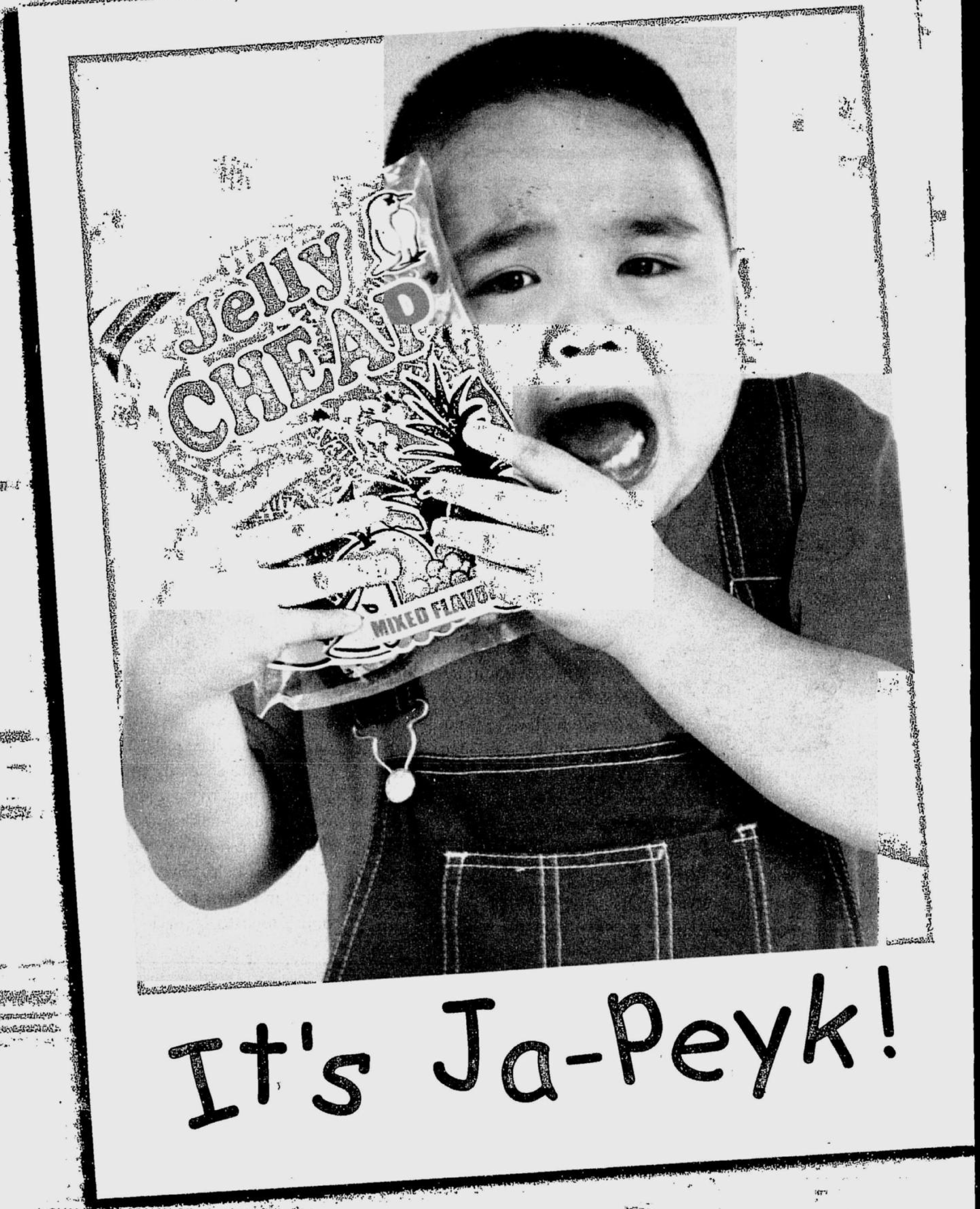
One of Butchik's favorite past time is snacking on Jellyace. He goes out of his way to snack on Jellyace because he like its taste and fruity flavors. Butchik just loves the originally jelly snack made for kids like him.

Butchik, the newest endorser of Jellyace, is John Erisson Javier Alvarez, a senior kinder in San Roque Nursery/Kindergarten School. John loves to collect toy cars of different kinds and sizes. He also likes to watch cartoons and children's movies. Aside from these, the energetic John also knows how to swim and play basketball.

His fascination with Jellyace started when he was about 3 years old. His mom has seen to is that he eats only the original Jellyace. John's craving for Jellyace grew and because of his adventurous and creative side, he concocts his own original snack like ice cream with Jellyace Mango Pudding.

Catch Butchik in the latest TV commercial of Jellyace which was megged by award-winning commercial director Mark Melly.

Among Jellyace's best sellers include Buko Pandan, Lychee, Mango Pudding, Trompo, Snackers, Mini, Halo-halo and the all time favorite assorted. All these exciting Jellyace goodies are available at all leading groceries and supermarkets nationwide.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the fruity snack
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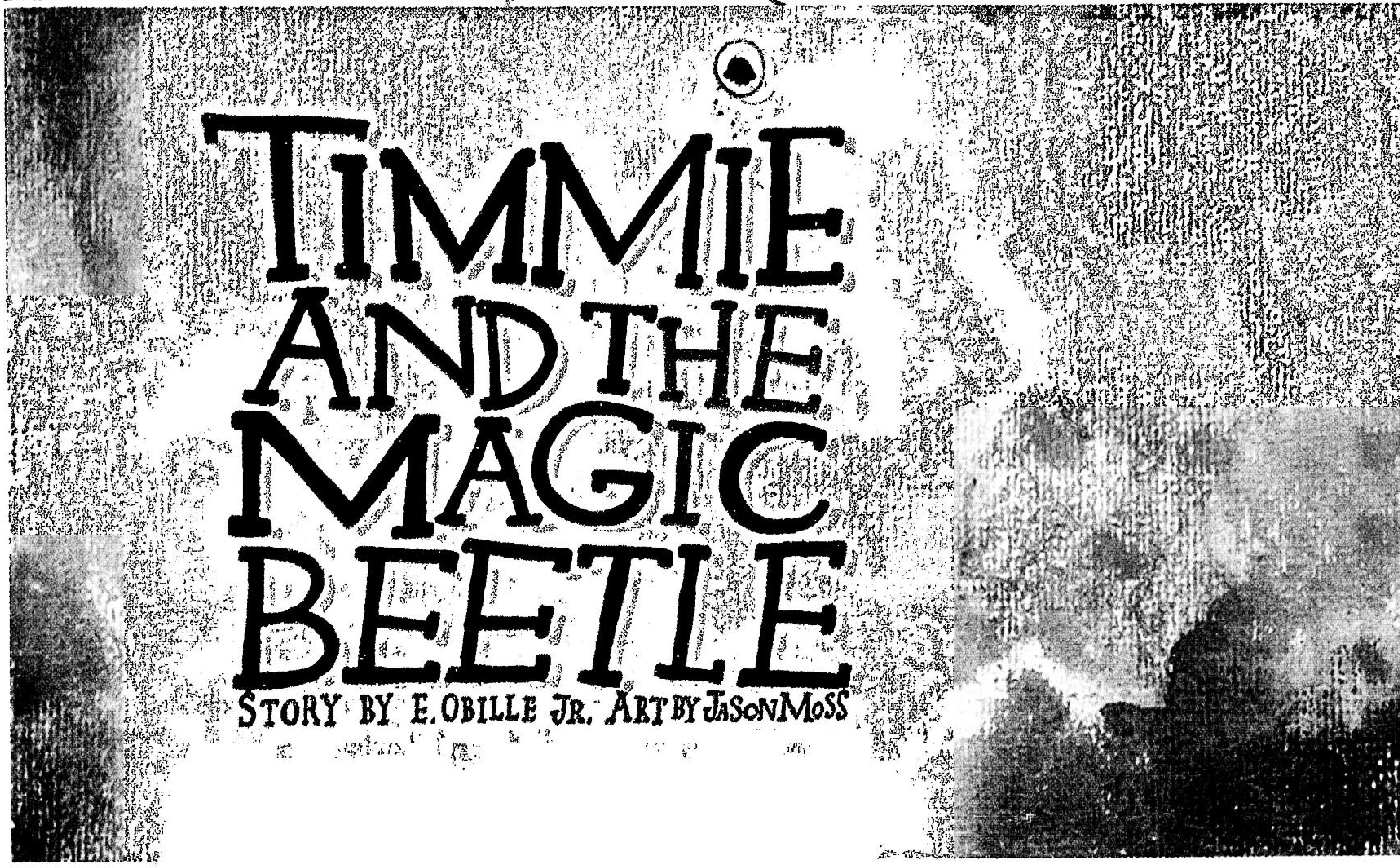


TIMMIE AND THE MAGIC BEETLE

STORY BY E. OBILLE JR. ART BY JASON MOSS

FOR or By KIDS

"DON'T go wandering into the woods," Mommy wagged her finger at Kay and little Timmie. "You might get lost."

"Yes, Mommy." Kay answered dutifully.

But her younger brother wasn't listening. It was Timmie's first camping trip and he was too excited to pay attention. When Mommy went inside the tent to take a nap, Timmie immediately grabbed his sister's hand and pulled her toward the woods.

"Let's go, let's go!" Timmie ran into the forest, forcing Kay to hurry after him.

"Didn't you hear what Mommy said?" Kay reminded Timmie in between breaths. "She'll never take us camping again!"

But it was too late. They found themselves inside the forest and the camping grounds were out of sight. Timmie stopped and looked around.

"It's dark here," he said softly. The trees reached up like towers into the sky and very little sunlight slipped through to the ground.

"It's so quiet," Kay whispered. But as they stood still, a hidden cicada cautiously made a tiny sound, "Dit, diit."

Then, feeling safe, the cicada broke into a piercing cry. "Diiiiiiiit!"

Kay and Timmie clapped their hands to their ears and grinned delightedly at each other. What a racket that insect was making! The shrill cry rose and fell and filled the forest air like a siren. "Diiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit!"

Timmie tugged Kay and they walked on, eager for new surprises. Away from the noise, they heard a different sound up in a tree.

"Whit-whew," it whistled. "Whit-whit-whew!"

Somewhere deep in the forest, a faint whistle called back. Timmie looked up just in time to see a red bird fly away, calling happily, "Whit-whit-whew, whit-whew!"

"Did you see that, Kay? Did you see it?"

"I did," Kay cried, having already forgotten their Mommy's warning. This is fun, she thought. It was exciting to just walking around inside the woods and discovering all sorts of things.

"Come on, let's see what's around the next bend!" she said.

They followed the trail until they came to a grassy area within the forest. In the center of the clearing stood one tall tree.

"I'll race you to the tree!" Timmie cried and started to run, Kay sprinted after Timmie, yelling, "Not fair, not fair!"

When Kay got to the tree, she chased Timmie round and round.

"You know what I'll do when I catch you?" Kay waved her fingers. "I'm going to tickle you!"

Timmie screamed and tried to run faster. Finally, the two collapsed on the grass and giggled until they were out of breath. Then they sat side by side at the foot of the tree and enjoyed the cool breeze blowing across the clearing. Tired from all the walking and running, they soon fell asleep. When they woke up, it was already late in the afternoon.

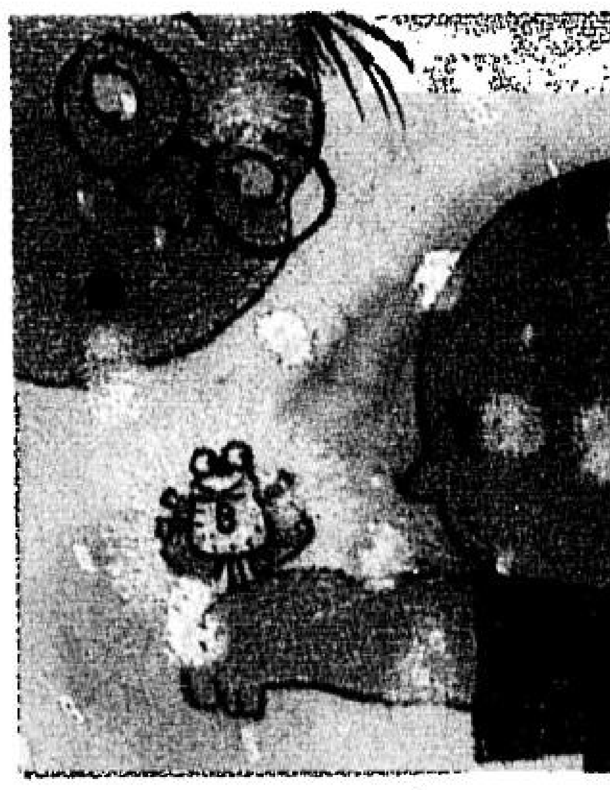
"Let's go Timmie," Kay said, worried.

"Where are we going?"

"Back to the camp. We came that way."

"Oh. . .didn't we come that way?" Timmie pointed. Kay looked and saw another trail. There were two trails and they looked the same! Which one led back to the camp?

"I think we passed this way," Kay said, but she wasn't really sure. She took Timmie's hand and they started walking back.



THEY were very quiet along the way because they were thinking of their mother. Suddenly they heard something move from under the dry leaves on the ground. Then a scaly head peeped out. Timmie stepped back.

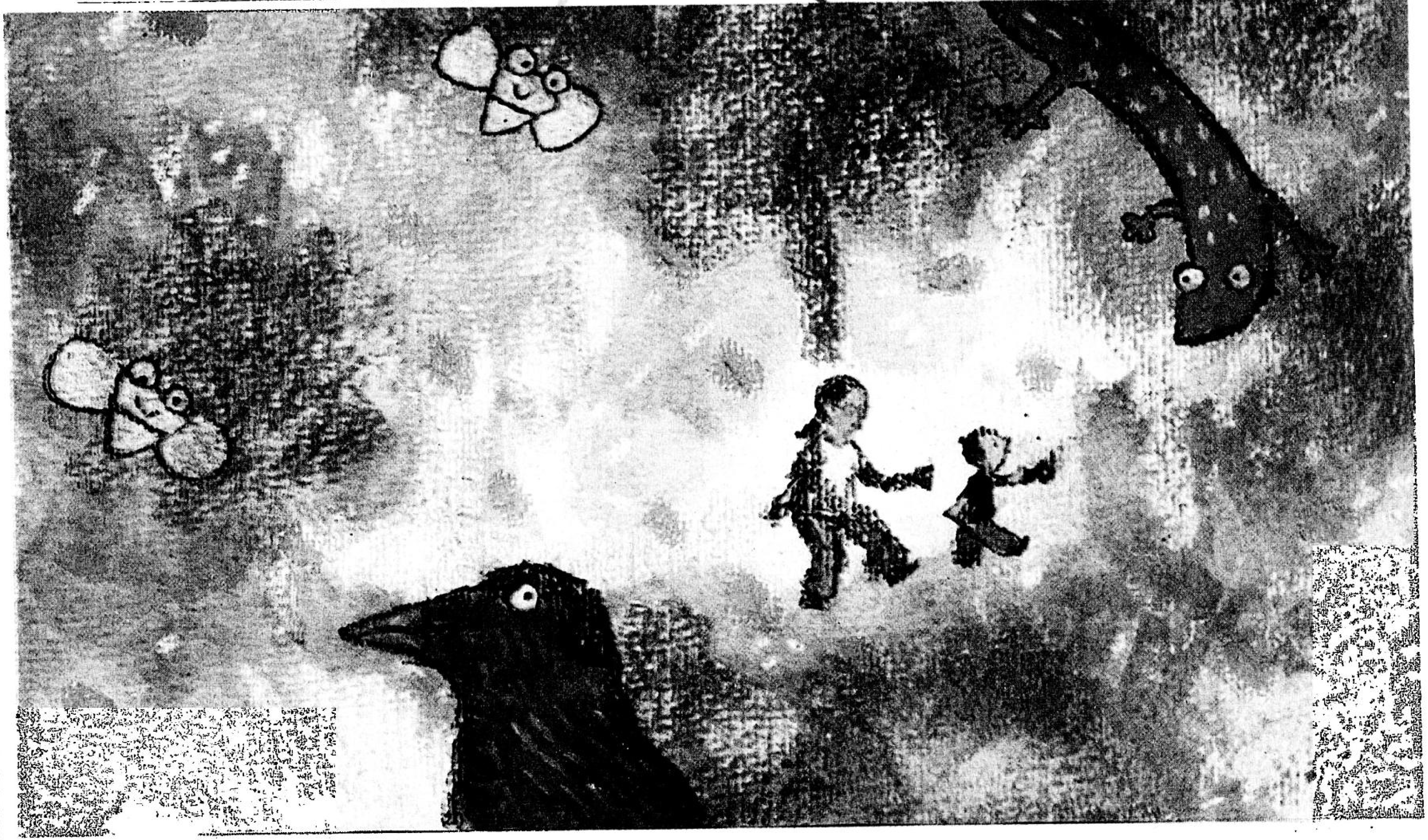
"Is it a snake?"

Before Kay could answer, the creature came out slowly—

"No, it isn't," Kay said, relieved. Snakes don't have feet."

It was a lizard. And it was creeping toward a tiny beetle on a twig. Timmie became alarmed and shouted. "Go away!"

The lizard jumped with fright and scampered into the bushes. Kay and Timmie relaxed and walked over to the beetle. It was trying to fly but it was stuck to a drop of sticky sap. Timmie picked it up carefully and put it in on his palm. The beetle seemed to feel it was already out



of danger and it started to clean itself.

"I'll take care of you until you can fly," Timmie told the beetle. He curled his fingers around it, making a hollow fist.

"Hurry up, Timmie," Kay said. "It's getting dark!"

It was getting dark, and it was very hard to see the trail.

But is this the right way back to the camp? Kay was thinking. Maybe I chose the wrong trail! She was becoming scared but she said nothing to Timmie. She didn't want to frighten her little brother.

They hadn't walked very far when Timmie called out nervously to his sister.

"Kay, the beetle is on fire!"

Kay rushed back and became excited. "Oh, Timmie. . .it's a. . . it's a. . ." She hesitated, not remembering what it was called.

"It's a magic beetle!" she finally announced.

Timmie's eyes grew round as he stared at the beetle. It was blinking on and off like a tiny lamp! Then the beetle spread its wings and flew away. It came back after a moment and landed on Timmie's arm.

"It likes you," Kay said.

The beetle took off again, and returned a second time. Timmie frowned, "Maybe it's telling us something."

"Hmm," Kay said. "Maybe it's telling us to follow it."

When the beetle flew away again, Kay and Timmie scrambled after it. This time the beetle flew on, flashing its tiny light, as the two kids followed in the dark. Now and then they stumbled over tree roots and ran into low branches because they couldn't see where they were going. Then the trail opened up and an astonishing sight greeted them—a whole tree full of flickering magic beetles!

"A CHRISTMAS tree!" Timmie exclaimed. "A giant Christmas tree!" Kay was speechless. She just stood there, gaping and full of wonder. It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen! The glow from the twinkling beetles was so bright, Kay could clearly see her little brother and the grass and the tall tree—

Hey, Kay suddenly realized, we're back at the grassy place! The magic beetle led us back to the grassy place!

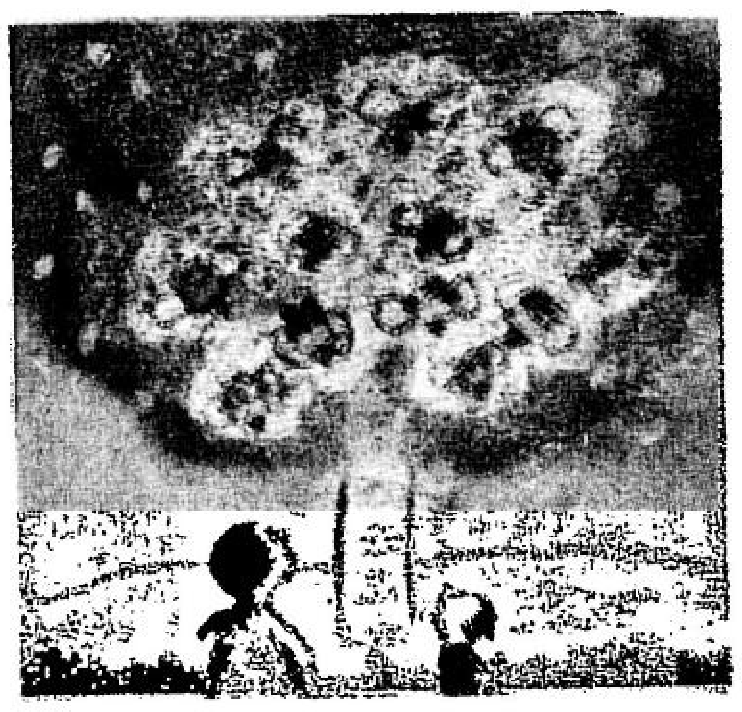
"Timmie, this is where we slept this afternoon!"

Timmie looked around. "You're right!"

A tiny light fluttered down from the tree and flew to the edge of the clearing. It settled among the bushes and flashed on and off.

"It's your beetle friend, Timmie!"

Kay and Timmie ran into the flickering beetle, and there they saw the other trail. They looked at each other and thought of the same thing, Maybe it's the way to the camp! They quickly took the trail, and after a lot of falling down and getting scratched, they managed to get back to the camping grounds. Mommy gave a cry when she saw them emerge from the forest.



"Where have you been?" Mommy was frantic with worry.

"I'm sorry, Mommy, it was my fault," Timmie admitted.

They waited for Mommy to get angry, but she was so glad to see them, all she did was hug them tight and say, "What did I tell you?"

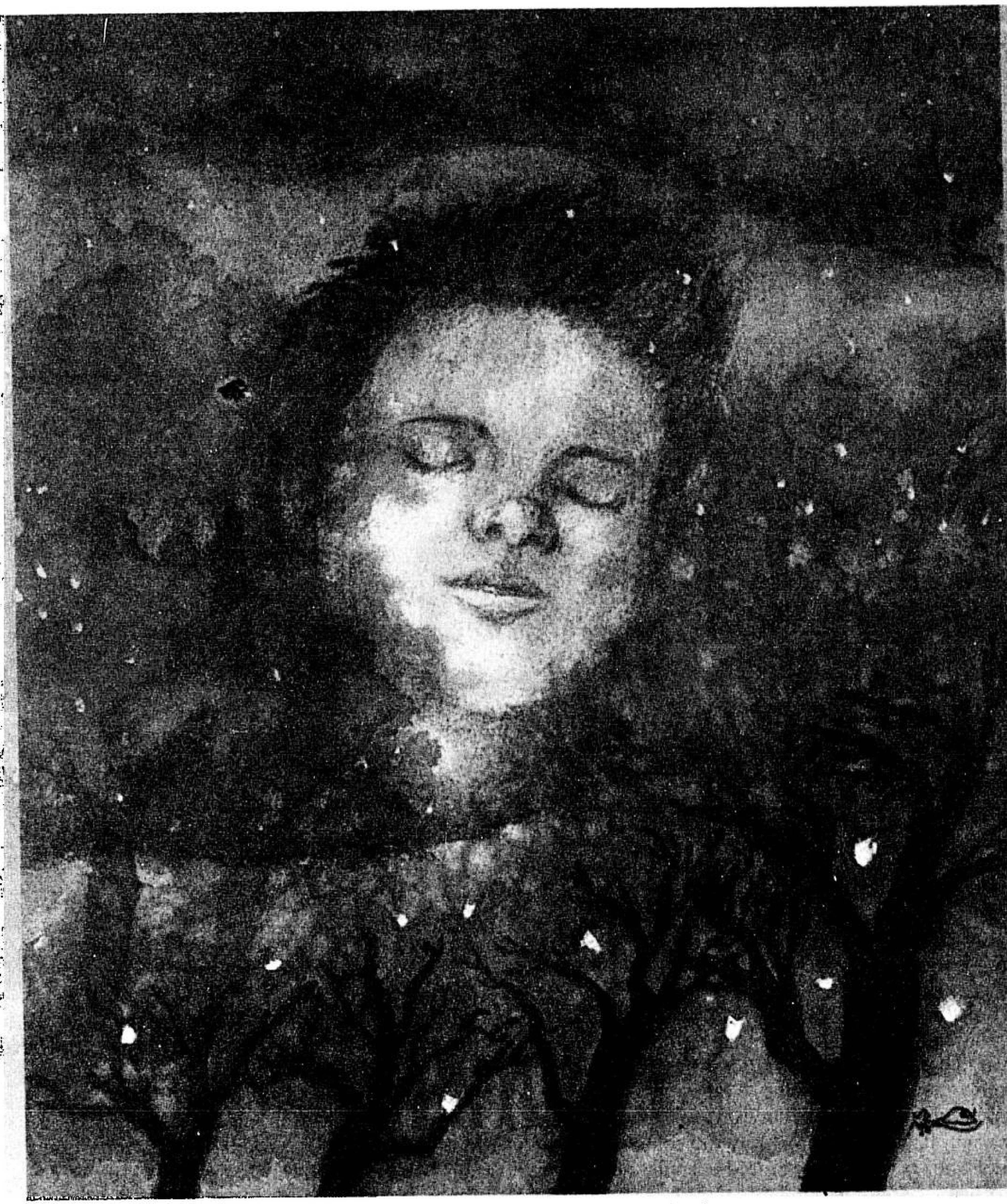
LATER that night, as he lay in his sleeping bag, Timmie thought about the day's adventure. He felt a little sad because he forgot to thank his tiny friend. But as he was about to drop off to sleep, he saw a familiar light land on the tent. Timmie sat up and smiled at the blinking light. Gently, he touched the spot where the light was shining through and whispered, "Thank you! And good night!"

Then after winking twice, the magic beetle flew away into the night.

* * *

E. Obille Jr. *teaches Geology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. He loves star-gazing and studying volcanoes.*

Jason *is a prolific visual artist. He works in a studio that is full of really interesting books.*



SI WALI, ANG MUNTING ALITAPTAP

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JASON MOSS

Inabangan ko siya sa hardin
Isang gabing walang kuryente
sa aming bahay.
Halos sumuko ako
sa paghihintay sa kanya
Ngunit dahil gusto ko talaga siyang makita,
Nagtiyaga ako kahit pinapapak ang lamok
Ang aking binti.
At ilang sandali pa ay lumitaw na siya.
Nagsuot-suot siya sa mga siit-siit at sanga,
Nagpaikot-ikot sa mga dahon,
Nagpatalun-talon sa ibabaw ng mga
bulaklak
Sa aming hardin.
Sinundan ko lamang ng tingin si Wali.
Natutuwa ako sa kanyang umiilaw na
likuran.
Nabulabog ang dilim ng kanyang dinadaan.
Sumisilay ang kulay ng bawat bagay
Na tinatamaan ng kanyang kinang.
Natuwa ako sa kanya.
Patay-sindi ang ilaw sa kanyang likuran
ngunit hindi napupundi.
Sinundan ko siya
Saan mang liblib na bahagi ng hardin.
Ayokong mawaglit siya sa aking paningin.
Sinubukan ko siyang hulihin
At nahuli ko naman siya.
Ginawa kong parang maliit na kuweba
Ang aking mga kamay.
At sa butas ay sinilip ko siya
Ngunit parang bigla siyang nalungkot.
At ayaw na niyang pailawin
ang kanyang likuran.
Nandoon lamang siya sa loob, paikut-ikot.
Naghahanap ng malulusutan.
Ngunit nang aking buksan ang kuwebang kamay.
Agad-agad niyang pinailaw
ang kanyang likuran
At humarap sa akin na tila nakikipag-usap.
Nagsuut-suot muli siya sa mga siit, sanga,
Nagpatalun-talon sa ibabaw
ng mga bulaklak.
Mabilis.
Hanggang mawaglit na siya sa aking
paningin.
Ako'y nagising.
Panaginip lang pala ang lahat.
Wala palang kuryente.
At nang dumungaw ako sa bintana
At tingalain ang langit,
Naandoon pala si Wali
kasama ng iba pang alitaptap,
Nagbibigay liwanag,
Nagsasaya sa kalangitan,
At kumukutikutitap.

*Si **Genaro** ay tubong-Bulacan.*
*Si **Jason** ay taga-Quezon City.*

Happy Camper

Here's a kid who loves it best in the Great Outdoors

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

AHHH, camping. The bonfires, the songs, the roasted hotdogs. So fun, yes? Eleven-year-old Loreen Eslao would be the first to nod her head.

Although, Loreen points out, there's also a rough and grimy side to camping.

"You'll easily get dirty. You'll be cramped inside the tent. You have to be quick in taking a bath," she says. Yet she still wants to go camping? Loreen's eyes light up and the big smile on her face tells us, "You bet!"

Scout's Honor

Since joining the Girl Scouts when she was in Grade 2, Loreen, now a fifth grader at Jose Abad Santos Memorial School in Quezon City, has gone on just about every camping trip she can pack her backpack to. Be it a simple overnight at her school or a hiking trip in Laguna or Batangas, Loreen will be there for sure.

On what keeps her going-going-going, Loreen says, "I learn a lot (during camping trips) and I make a lot of friends too."

Loreen easily makes friends and gets along with anyone, which is probably why she's always been chosen as the Patrol Leader from the first day she joined the scouts.

"A Patrol Leader needs to know her responsibilies," says Loreen, and during camping trips, these include "making sure none of your patrol members gets lost, keeping the campsite clean and not doing anything that would harm your patrol."

"You must never let your patrol down," she stresses.

Big city, bright child

Back in the big city, Loreen still doesn't settle down. She's a member of her school's volleyball varsity but anyone can also invite her to a game of basketball or badminton anytime. When she hits the books, Loreen concentrates on her favorite subjects—Math, Science and Social Studies.

Did we just hear you say, "Bleeeech"?

"I used to think these subjects were difficult too," says Loreen, "but one day, before an exam, I sat down and really studied. That's when I began to enjoy them."

Someday, Loreen would really like to try camping in another country. "I want to see Japan," she says, "I think it's beautiful."

Will she be adventurous enough to try anything, we ask, including...eating an octopus?

Cocking her head to one side, Loreen grins and replies, "Maybe...but I could also bring my own food."

BOTANICAL CAMPER? Loreen is in her element poking around in the wilds of...her garden! MIKE ALQUINTO

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

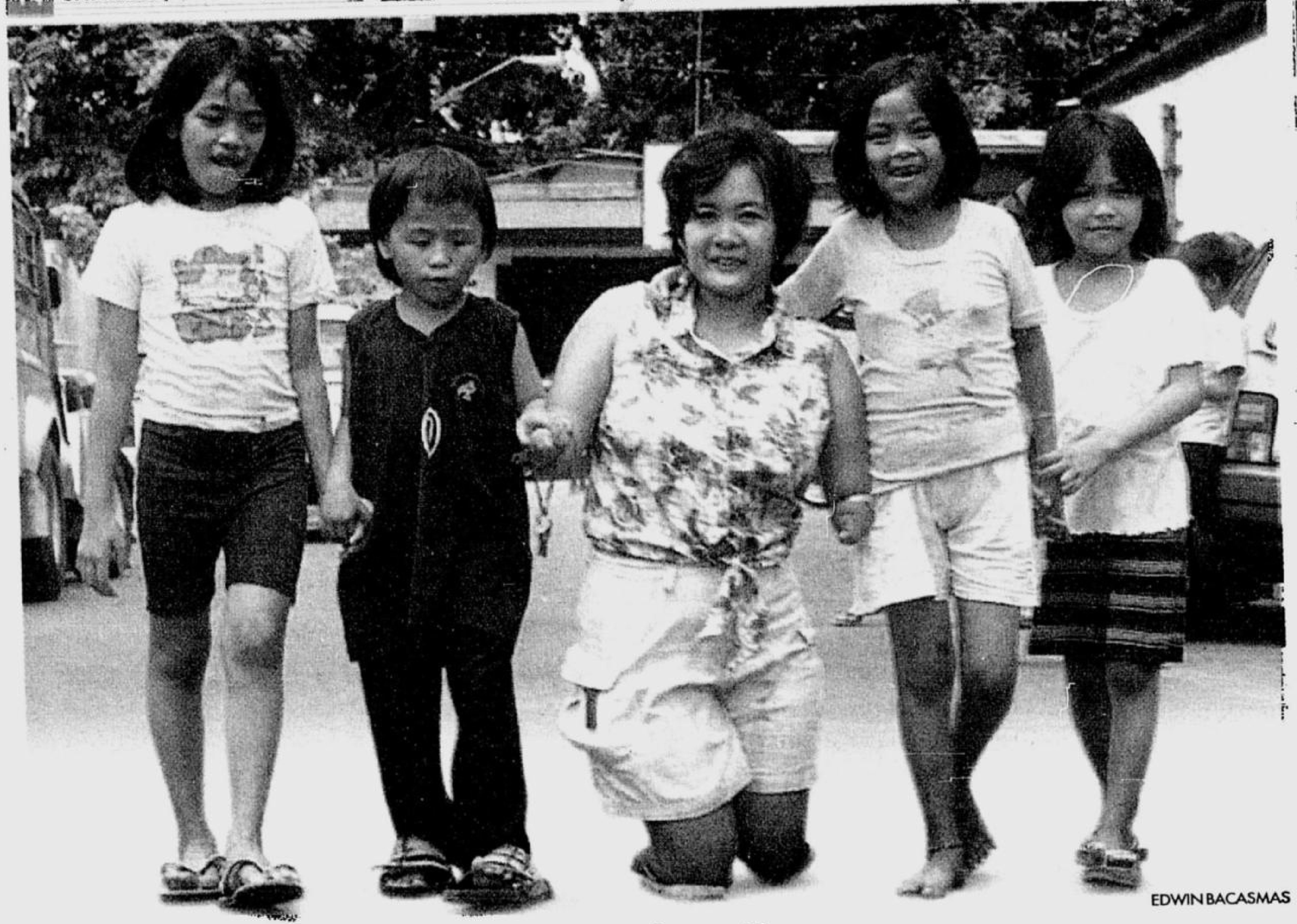
Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.



EDWIN BACASMAS

INSPIRATION. Maggie touches the lives of those who meet her.

No Hands? No Feet? No Problem

What others would call a disability has never—ever—stopped Maggie

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

GROWING up in Negros Oriental, Maggie often played tag with her classmates. "You can't catch me! You can't catch me!" they would yell, running away from her. Maggie, you see, was also often the *taya*.

"But I did catch some of them," Maggie says, now grinning, "because I can also move really fast when I want to."

Being born without hands or feet has never stopped 28-year-old Magdalena Tano from doing what other people do, even if she has to do it while running, walking or standing on her knees. "I can also ride a bike," she adds with a playful twinkle in her eye, "so long as it's attached to a sidecar."

When she finished high school, Maggie rode a ship to Manila by herself to meet her mom who worked here, and also to study college. She then enrolled at a computer college because she wanted to become a programmer. Now how, you might ask, does someone without hands use a computer? Simple, there are small round ends on the tips of Maggie's limbs and these are what she uses to push buttons and type away.

Unfortunately, Maggie had to stop after the first year of her studies. "We were having financial problems and I had gotten sick," she relates, "I had also started taking care of an abandoned child.

The child was a nephew left in Maggie's care because his parents could no longer afford to take care of him.

"I had to support him so I looked for a job," says Maggie. Her typing skills landed her a job as a secretary at their barangay hall.

At the same time, Maggie also became active in church, attending Bible sharings and volunteering to teach catechism to kids. Then when her parish started helping a group that looked out for disabled or abused women and children, Maggie decided to work for them too.

"I knew that with my own experiences, I could also help them with their lives," says Maggie.

To these women and children, Maggie shares the most important lesson she's learned in her life. "First of all, you have to know yourself," she begins, "you have to know what you're good at and what you're not so good in."

"Then you have to accept that," she says, "and thank God for everything."

Now, not only can Maggie do what other people do, but she's also making a difference in other lives too.

If you or your parents would like to help Maggie in her work, contact the Green and Purple Sanctuary—Bahay K at 414-1789. Or at the San Pedro Bautista Parish 415-7235.

Do you know a grown-up who
- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate
__________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my
__________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)__________;
2)__________;
3)__________;
4)__________;
and
5)__________.
My nominee lives at__________
__________.
Give him/her a call
at__________
or send him/her an e-mail
at__________.
By the way, I'm__________
__________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
__________.
You may call me at
__________.

¿ThinkathoN?
By Bong Barrameda

MONEY-GO-ROUND

THIS week's quiz revolves around a dozen basic questions about terms dealing with money and the economy. In each number, the answer to the given definition begins with the letter in quotation marks. Hope your time will be well spent!

1. What "**A**" is money deposited in a bank which may be withdrawn on demand by the depositor?

2. What "**B**" is a plan of how much money a person, business, government, or another organization has to spend and how much it will be spent?

3. What "**C**" is property which a borrower promises to pay a lender in case of a default on a loan?

4. What "**C**" is a kind of money that is used as a medium of exchange?

5. What "**E**" is the structure of the flow of money in a society?

6. What "**I**" is an economic condition characterized by rising prices, caused by too much money in circulation?

7. What "**I**" is to risk money with the hope of added financial return?

8. What "**P**" is the money a business makes minus the cost of producing and selling its products?

9. What "**R**" is a "downturn" in the economy, when the demand for goods declines and the money supply is less?

10. What "**S**" is a part of a company which may be bought by someone as an investment?

11. What "**S**" is a person who buys and sells shares for other people on the stock market?

12. What "**V**" is the worth of something as measured in goods, services, or a medium of exchange?

Answers:

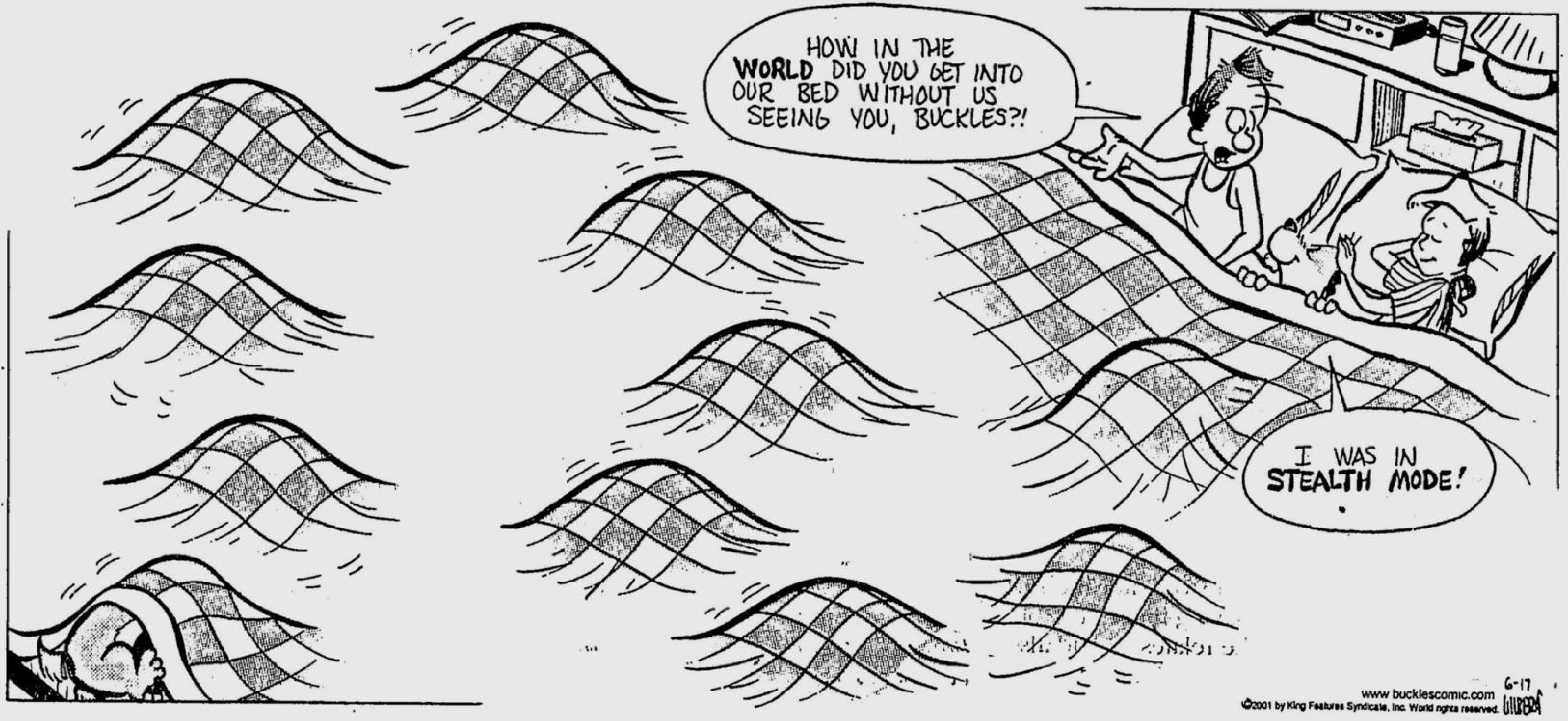
1. Account
2. Budget
3. Collateral
4. Currency
5. Economy
6. Inflation
7. Invest
8. Profit
9. Recession
10. Share
11. Stockbroker
12. Value

Ratings :

superbrain!
18 - 20
excellent!
14 - 17
good!
8 - 13

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET INTO OUR BED WITHOUT US SEEING YOU, BUCKLES?!
I WAS IN STEALTH MODE!
6-17
GILBERT

www.bucklescomic.com

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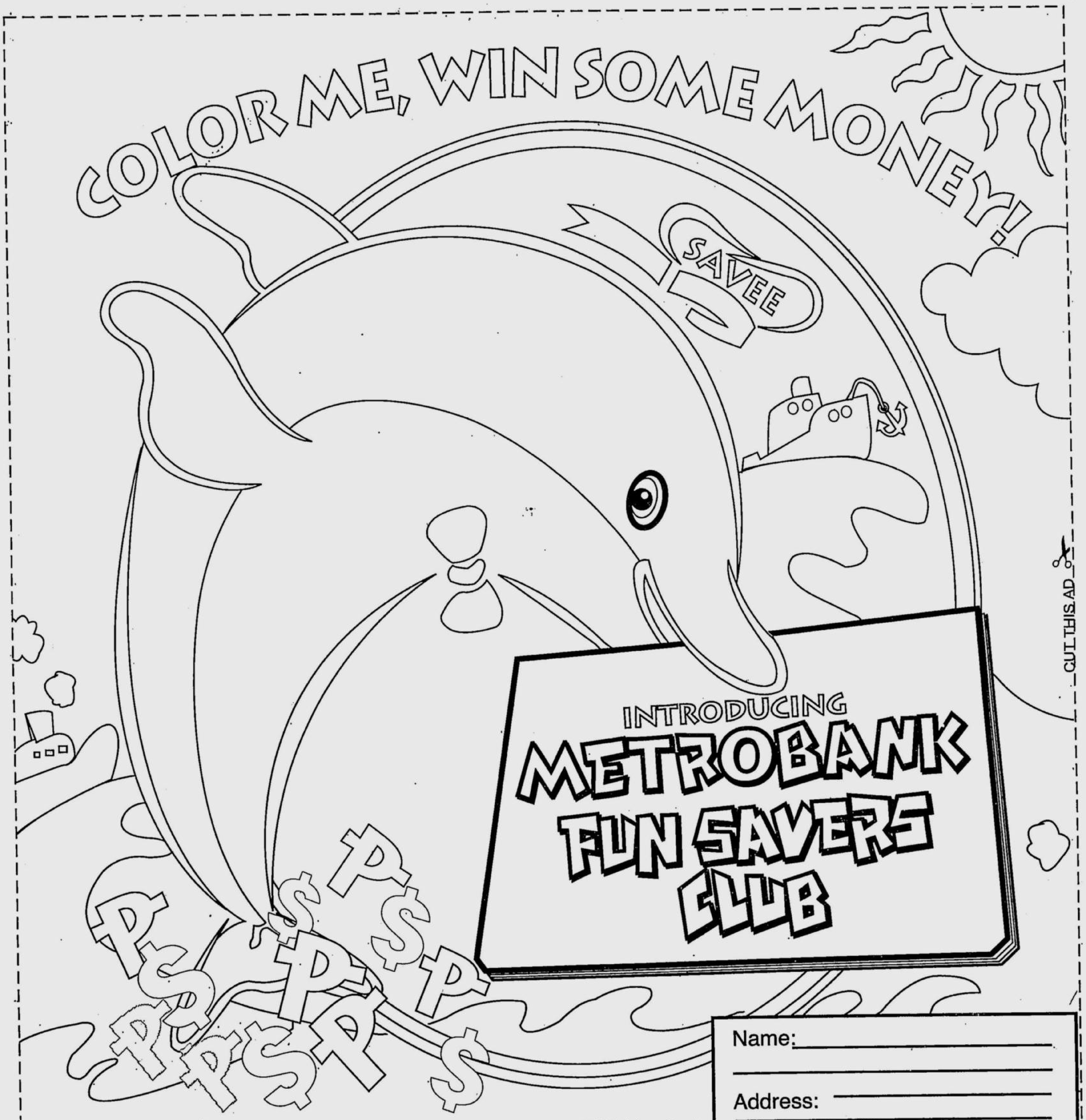

Name: ____________________

____

Address: ____________________

____

Tel. No.: __________ Age: ______

Metrobank Fun Savers Club member? YES ___ NO ___

Hey kids! If you're between 7-10 years old, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a ₱2,000.00 initial deposit and membership in the Metrobank Fun Savers Club! If you are already a member and you win, your ₱2,000.00-cash prize will be deposited to your Metrobank Fun Savers Club account. It's so easy to join! Just color Savee the dolphin blue, his tummy white and color the rest of the ad any way you want, then send your entries to: "Color Me" Contest, PRMD, 11th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Send as many entries as you want on or before August 17, 2001! So what are you waiting for? Get your crayons, craypas and colored pencils and start coloring this ad now!

NOTE: *Only original ads are considered as valid entries. Photocopies will be disqualified.

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